Islamic states say Misuari failed to deliver

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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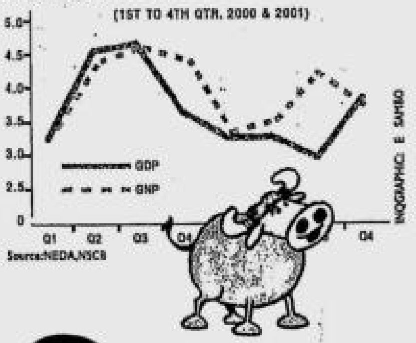
BUSINESS/ B6

QUARTERLY GNP & GDP GROWTH RATES

(1ST TO 4TH QTR. 2000 & 2001)



Source:NEDA,NSCB

Surprising RP growth

Telecom, agri fuel 3.4% rise in economy

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE economy, beating market forecasts, posted a 3.4-percent growth in 2001 as robust production in agriculture and rapid expansion in the telecommunications sector offset plunging exports and weak manufacturing output.

Investors cheered the higher-than-expected growth figures released yesterday by the National Economic Development Authority, pushing the 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index up by 4.2 percent to a six-month high. ***(See story in Business, B1)***

Economic Planning Undersecretary Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla said the country's gross domestic product grew by 3.8 percent in the fourth quarter, slightly higher than the government's target of 3.7 percent.

That enabled inflation-adjusted growth for the entire year to reach 3.4 percent, surpassing forecasts of private analysts and foreign agencies of less than 3.0 percent as well as the government's own target of 3.3 percent.

With workers' remittances from abroad increasing by 9.2 percent, real gross national product (GNP) also grew 3.7 percent for the same period.

The figures indicate that the Philippines is one of the region's most resilient economies to the global downturn, avoiding the recession plaguing its richer neighbors.

"The economy displayed newfound strengths in 2001, enabling it to overcome the political shocks caused by the previous (Estrada) administration, worldwide retrenchments in the high-tech sector and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States," said Neda Deputy Director General Lotilla.

Other analysts shared Lotilla's optimism that the country would again meet, if not exceed, the government's growth target of 4.0-4.5 percent this year with the expected recovery of the US and European economies.

"Last year's growth should provide a healthy springboard for the year ahead. Economic target for 2002 looks like they're within reach," said David Cohen,

SURPRISING/A18

RP-US war games start; 15 more coming . . .

STARS and Stripes in the Land of the Morning and Cradle of Noble Heroes, a formidable combine at the formal opening rites of the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 at the Southcom headquarters in Zamboanga City. DENNIS SABANGAN

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—As part of America's expanded war on terror, the Philippines and the United States officially launched here yesterday "Balikatan 02-1" joint military exercises.

Robert Fitts, US charge d'affaires, confirmed reports that the war games could be extended up to 12 months.

He said the exercise was only one of 16 or so planned for this year.

"As you noticed, the last number is 1, which means we have already planned Balikatan 2, 3 and 4 for this year," Fitts told 36 American and 100 Filipino troops on a parade square.

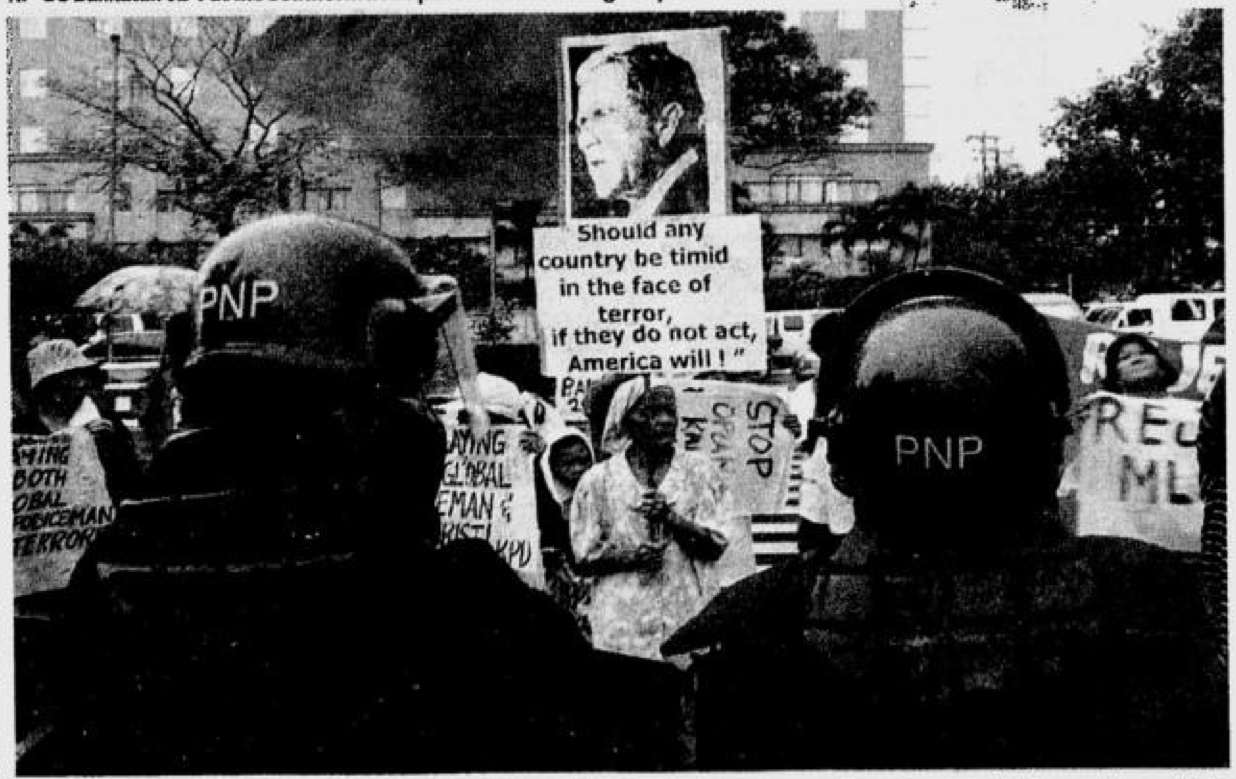
America will also assist the Philippines in its fight against poverty, according to Balikatan training co-director Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster.

Wurster said the anti-poverty program was dubbed "Operation Gentle Wind."

"Poverty and desperation provide the opportunity for terrorism to grow and then development and prosperity cannot occur," Wurster said.

It was Gen. Diomedio Villanueva who formally opened the joint military exercises.

RP-US/A18


Should any country be timid in the face of terror, if they do not act, America will ! "
PNP
PNP
STOP

BASHING Bush for his State of the Union Address, elements of the Kilusang Pambansa sa Demokrasya, which is part of an anti-US coalition, PeaceCamp, take their turn before the US Embassy on Thursday. Note PNP's new gear. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

. . . But terms of reference still unsigned

By Cynthia D. Balana and Juliet L. Javellana

THE YET UNSIGNED terms of reference (TOR) governing the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 yesterday continued to be the focus of contention among Philippine government officials.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the proposed official draft of the TOR put American troops in a real combat situation in Mindanao.

Biazon said a copy of the document that was transmitted by the government to his office incorporated the US policy of unilateral actions against international terrorists, as spelled out by US President George W. Bush in his State of the Union Address on Tuesday.

The same policy may be the reason for deploying US troops in a combat zone and allowing their use of live ammunition on real targets such as the Abu Sayyaf, he said.

BUT/A18

Pinatubo ambush: German rescued; American found

RESCUED after 30 hours Siegfried Whitman arrives in Clark after flying in from the site where he was ambushed. AFP

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—A missing German national was rescued yesterday and the body of his American friend found hours later in Sapang Uwak, a remote and abandoned Aeta village in Porac, Pampanga.

Siegfried Whitman, earlier reported as a Dutchman, was rescued almost 30 hours after he was reported missing.

The operation involved about 100 Philippine Army and Air Force soldiers and 20 policemen, as well as the use of three helicopters, including one sent by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and an MH-47 with night-flying capability from the US Army.

Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Pampanga police director, said the body of Brian Thomas Smith was found near a waterfall in Sapang Uwak at 5:15 p.m., or almost four hours after Whitman was rescued.

Rafanan, who was at the site, told the INQUIRER that Smith had a bullet wound in the chest.

Rescuers abandoned plans to immediately airlift the body to Clark because

PINATUBO/A18

'Twas Bobby Romulo behind PR blitz

By Carlito Pablo

THE GUESSING game is over.

Malacañang yesterday finally disclosed that the hiring of an international public relations company was the brainchild of former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said it was also Romulo who organized a group of private businessmen to help pay for the $800,000 contract fee of the Washington-based Burson and Marsteller.

He admitted though that it is the Office of the President which is paying for the bulk or 70 percent of the contract.

"The President is directly talking to Bobby Romulo," Tiglao said in a teleconference call with Palace reporters from a New York hotel suite.

Tiglao and Romulo, currently adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo on "international competitiveness," are accompanying her on an eight-day trip to the United Kingdom, Canada and the

GUESSING/A5

Filipino maids in HK win fight: No pay cut

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Blanche Rivera

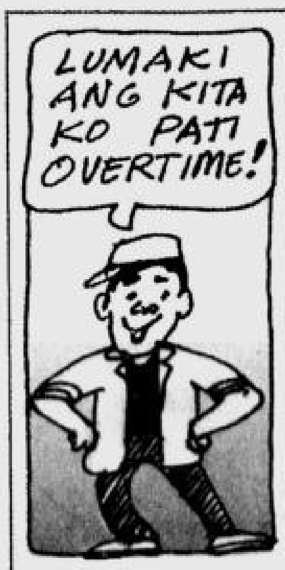
FILIPINO maids in Hong Kong scored a victory when the government announced yesterday that it would not cut their minimum wage despite pleas from employers.

"Victory is ours. We have been vindicated," declared Connie Bragas-Regalado, chair of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong.

The Education and Manpower Bureau decided to retain the minimum allowable wage of HK$3,670 (about P24,000), for foreign domestic helpers following the government's annual wage review.

Legislators in the Chinese territory had proposed wage cuts of as much as 20 percent because of the weakening economy.

FILIPINO/A18


LUMAKI ANG KITA KO PATI OVERTIME!

Bush war boosts pay of RP workers in Guantanamo Bay

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba—With the crank of a ferry lever, Amorsolo Batangan waves through a convoy of trucks and contemplates how his paycheck has swelled since dozens of prisoners from Afghanistan arrived at this remote US naval base.

Like many of the 1,000 foreign workers—mainly from the Philippines and Jamaica—Batangan's normal salary of $316 a month is less than half the US minimum wage, but still more than what he

BUSH/A5

Second FRONT PAGE

OIC
PALPAK TALAGA

Misuari failed to deliver—OIC

MISUARI

By Christine Herrera

OFFICIALS of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) admitted yesterday that former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Nur Misuari had "failed to deliver," leaving the four provinces in the region "in the dark ages."

At a round-table discussion on the comprehensive peace process in Mindanao held at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City, Libyan Ambassador Salem Adem, an OIC member, said Misuari was given the chance to improve the lives of the people of Mindanao but failed.

"Nur Misuari was given the chance to deliver for five years but the Mindanao provinces are still in the dark ages," Adem said.

It was for this reason, he said, the OIC recognized the new leadership of the ARMM after the elections held last year.

"We respect the result of the ARMM elections and recognize the new leadership," Adem said. The new ARMM governor is Parouk Hussin.

Saudi Arabian Ambassador Saleh Mohammad al-Ghamdi said the OIC would not interfere with the Philippine government in its prosecution of Misuari and his followers.

"But we in the OIC expect a fair trial for Misuari and expect that he will be accorded respect and be treated well. We hope he remains a Filipino citizen," al-Ghamdi said.

Adem, for his part, said the OIC-member countries would continue to provide economic assistance to the southern Philippines.

He also said the OIC would help bridge the gap between the government and the Bangsamoro peoples, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front.

Al-Ghamdi said the Saudi government would continue to help build clinics, schools and provide relief goods to the victims of war.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., concurrent foreign secretary, thanked the ambassadors present at the discussion for the help the OIC-member countries have been extending to Mindanao.

Guingona lauded the OIC for being instrumental in the search for peace between the government and the Moro rebels.

Misuari is under detention at Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, for leading his followers in attacks on military installations in Jolo, Sulu, on Nov. 19, 2001 to try and forestall the ARMM elections.

The mini uprising resulted in over 100 deaths to the military, the rebels and civilians.

Misuari's term as ARMM governor—from 1996 to 2001—was marked by allegations he spent most of his time traveling abroad and squandering the billions of pesos in funds that were supposed to go toward development of the autonomous region.

SC orders forfeiture of Bugarin property

By Michael L. Ubac

THE SUPREME Court yesterday ordered the seizure of a portion of the estate of Jolly Bugarin, the Marcos-era chief of the National Bureau of Investigation who served for 19 years.

In ordering the forfeiture, the SC reversed a 1991 Sandiganbayan ruling favoring Bugarin. The ruling had dismissed, for insufficiency of evidence, a petition for forfeiture of Bugarin's properties filed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The SC set aside the ruling, saying "a plain reading of the Sandiganbayan's decision exposed manifest errors and misapprehension (sic) of facts, which impelled us to pore over the evidence extant from the records."

The high court then ordered that properties acquired by Bugarin from 1968 to 1980, which were disproportionate to his "lawful" income during the same period, be seized by the government.

The SC said Bugarin amassed wealth in the amount of P2.1 million from 1968 to 1980, but his total income for the same period was only P766,548.

The SC noted that Bugarin's lawful income was "grossly insufficient" to finance the acquisition of his assets at the time.

In its petition filed with the Sandigan-bayan on Aug. 3, 1987, the PCGG contended that Bugarin acquired during his incumbency properties whose fair market value was P6.3 million.

The Sandiganbayan listed an income of P3.5 million for Bugarin during his incumbency.

The SC, however, did not include any income from the properties between 1981 and 1986 in its computation of Bugarin's income. It also did not include the value of any properties purchased between those years.

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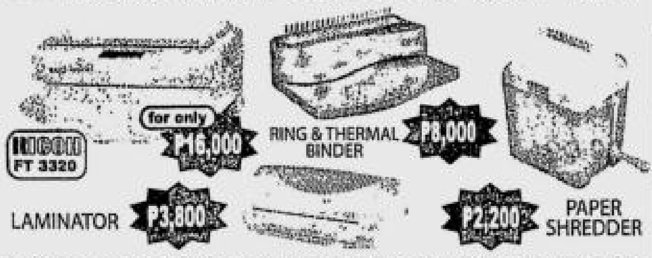

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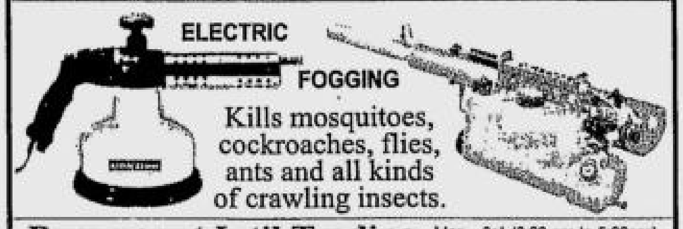

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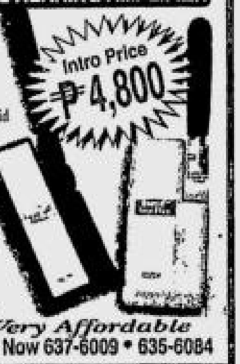

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Ani unfazed by solons' ploy

By Michael Lim Ubac

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday said he was unfazed by the decision of the House of Representatives to defer the vote on the fate of the first impeachment complaint filed against him by lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr.

"I respect the decision of the House," said Desierto who stressed that the deferment would allow solons to "carefully study" the recommendations of the House committee on justice dismissing the complaint.

Desierto, however, cautioned solons against tackling both impeachment complaints at the same time.

"Let's take up the cases one by one. It's a matter of rules... and under any game, you take up a contest one-by-one," he said.

He said the solons should take up the two impeachment complaints separately "according to the dates of filing."

"Which means," he said, "that the House takes up the first impeachment complaint first. That's the norm of fairness and justice."

But several congressmen want the first impeachment case deferred and the second case taken up first. Under the Constitution, an impeachable official can be charged with impeachment only once in a 12-month period. If the congressmen vote on the first case, the second case will no longer be considered.

Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said his group will be seeking the signatures of one-third of the members of the House so the case can be transmitted straight to the senate for trial, just as the congressman did when they impeached former President Joseph Estrada in 2000.

Zubiri said they need to gather enough signatures in one week to prevent the House from acting on the first complaint.

In the first complaint, Francisco had claimed that Desierto took a bribe in exchange for sitting on a tax credit scam case involving the former's client, businessman Luke Roxas, in 1997.

Put RP back on radar screen, Canadians asked

By Tony Bergonia
Assistant National Editor

TORONTO—President Macapagal-Arroyo wound up her visit to Canada with an appeal to foreign investors to "put the Philippines back on the radar screen."

"Come to the Philippines as the Philippines has come to you," Ms Macapagal said in a speech before members of the Empire Club, an organization of Canada's elite.

Measuring the success of her trip by the number of agreements and the amount of dollars generated and promised during negotiations that she supervised, Ms Macapagal said her visit to Canada was worth it.

She followed up her appeal for foreign investments by listing down what she claimed were her young administration's achievements:

- A 3.7 percent growth in gross national product that she said drew praises from some of the most conservative economic think tanks in the world.
- An economic growth that she said was "consumption-led," or spurred by increased spending by the people.
- An economic path that she said would lead to "investment-led" growth by the end of the year.
- A reduction in the unemployment rate from 11.3 percent to 9.6 percent. "We intend to further bring it down next year," she said.
- A decline in interest rates.

Sounding like a used car salesman, Ms Macapagal said the Philippines should be the ideal investment haven for foreigners and overseas Filipinos with money to invest because of several things:

- "Professionalism in my Cabinet."
- The passage of the anti-money laundering law and another law reforming the power industry and leading to the sale of the state-run and state-owned National Power Corp. to the private sector.

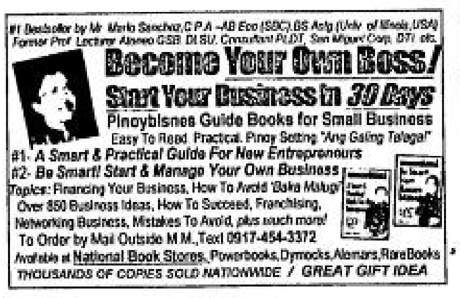
Tomorrow is a holiday

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has declared Feb. 2 a non-working holiday in commemoration of "Constitution Day."

President Macapagal made the declaration in Proclamation No. 149 which she signed on Jan. 24 "in order to instill in the hearts and minds of the Filipinos the noble and lofty ideals enshrined" in the 1987 Constitution.

"Love and respect for the Constitution will promote and strengthen the ideals of patriotism, good citizenship, active participation in the social, political and economic development of the country and respect for the rule of law and democratic principles," Ms. Macapagal said.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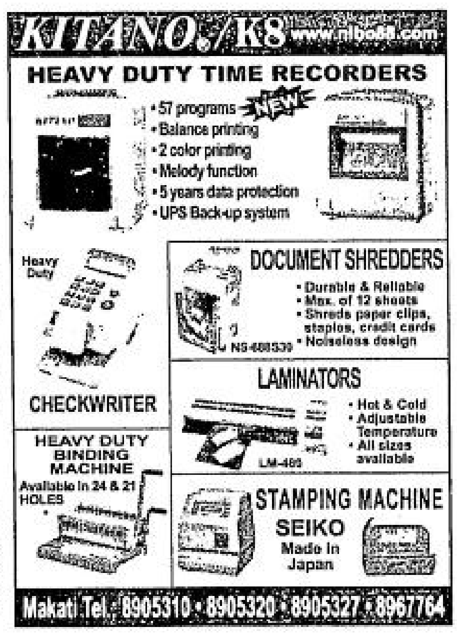
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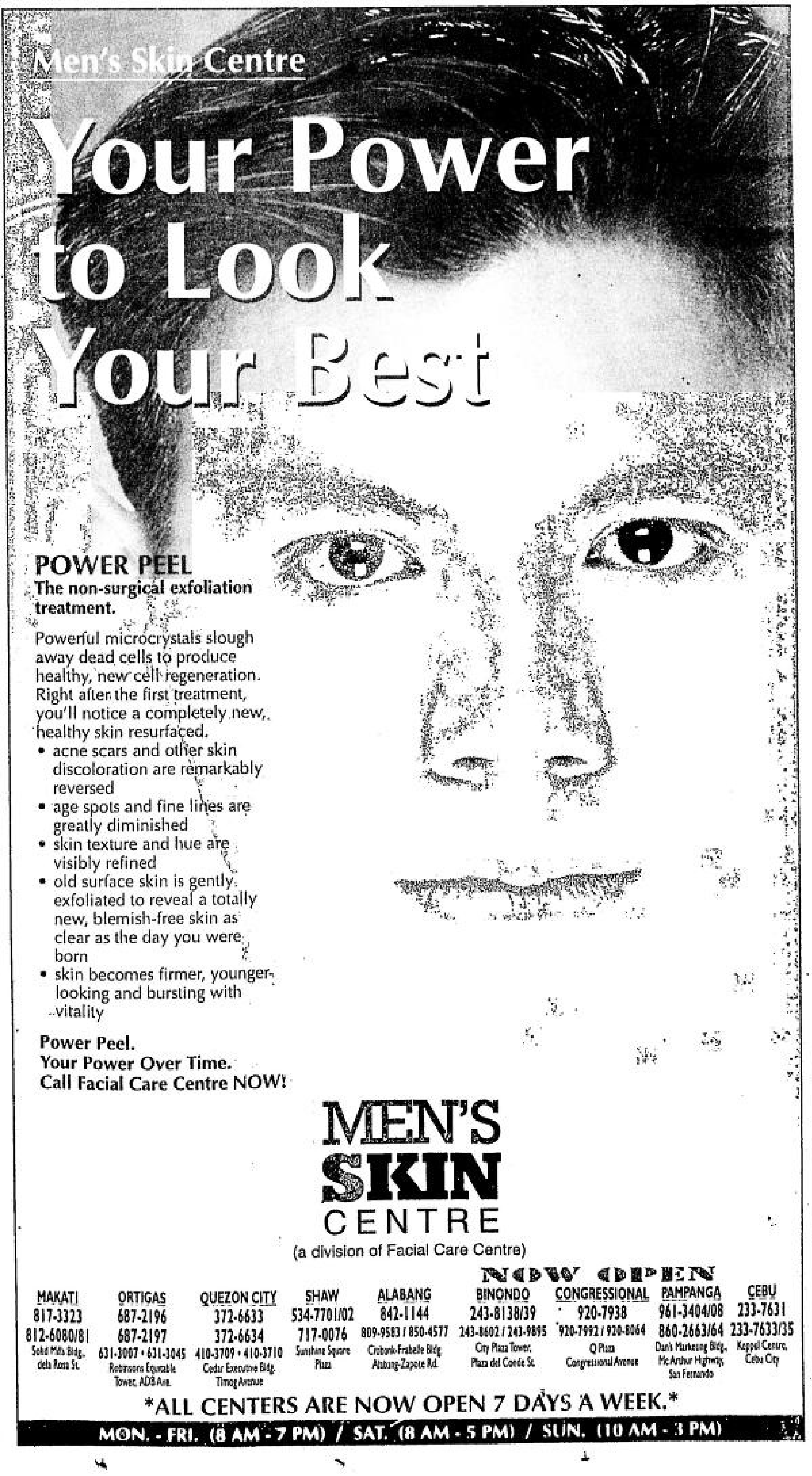
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Gov't may take over Cocobank in 2 weeks

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government could take over the United Coconut Planters' Bank and the Coconut Industry Investment Fund Companies in the next two weeks, according to PCGG chair Haydee Yorac.

This development came as discussions on the proposed "interim agreement" with San Miguel Corp. and the camp of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco proceeded.

"I think we have moved forward in a significant way," Yorac said.

"I think it is fair to assume that the government would be taking over the UCPB and CIIF group of companies very soon, and the PCGG representatives to San Miguel Corp. would be there even before the regular stockholders' meeting, as a consequence of our takeover of the CIIF group of companies," Yorac explained late Monday.

The PCGG chief said the government's takeover of UCPB and the CIIF companies would take place "very soon."

Asked if this would happen before the Feb. 27 special stockholders' meeting in San Miguel Corp., she said, "it is fair to say that there is a reasonable chance of that happening."

"Maybe Valentine's Day," Yorac said.

She said that even the five nominees of President Macapagal-Arroyo could be sitting in the SMC board even before the regular stockholders' meeting in June this year.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said that the government and SMC were already in the final stages of documenting the interim agreement that would ensure seats for the government in SMC.

"We are targeting closure in the next week or so, if not earlier," he said Wednesday.

And Yorac is also not closing the door on sitting in the SMC board as director as had earlier been proposed by Malacañang.

Earlier, she said that it was against her policy to sit in government boards, especially if this would pose a conflict in her government function.

"I have to think very seriously about that. I am a very strict constructionist of conflict of interest," she said.

"While this particular point has not been definitively settled, and a number of commissioners since before and until now have been sitting on minor boards, I have myself personally refrained from sitting on any board until now," Yorac said.

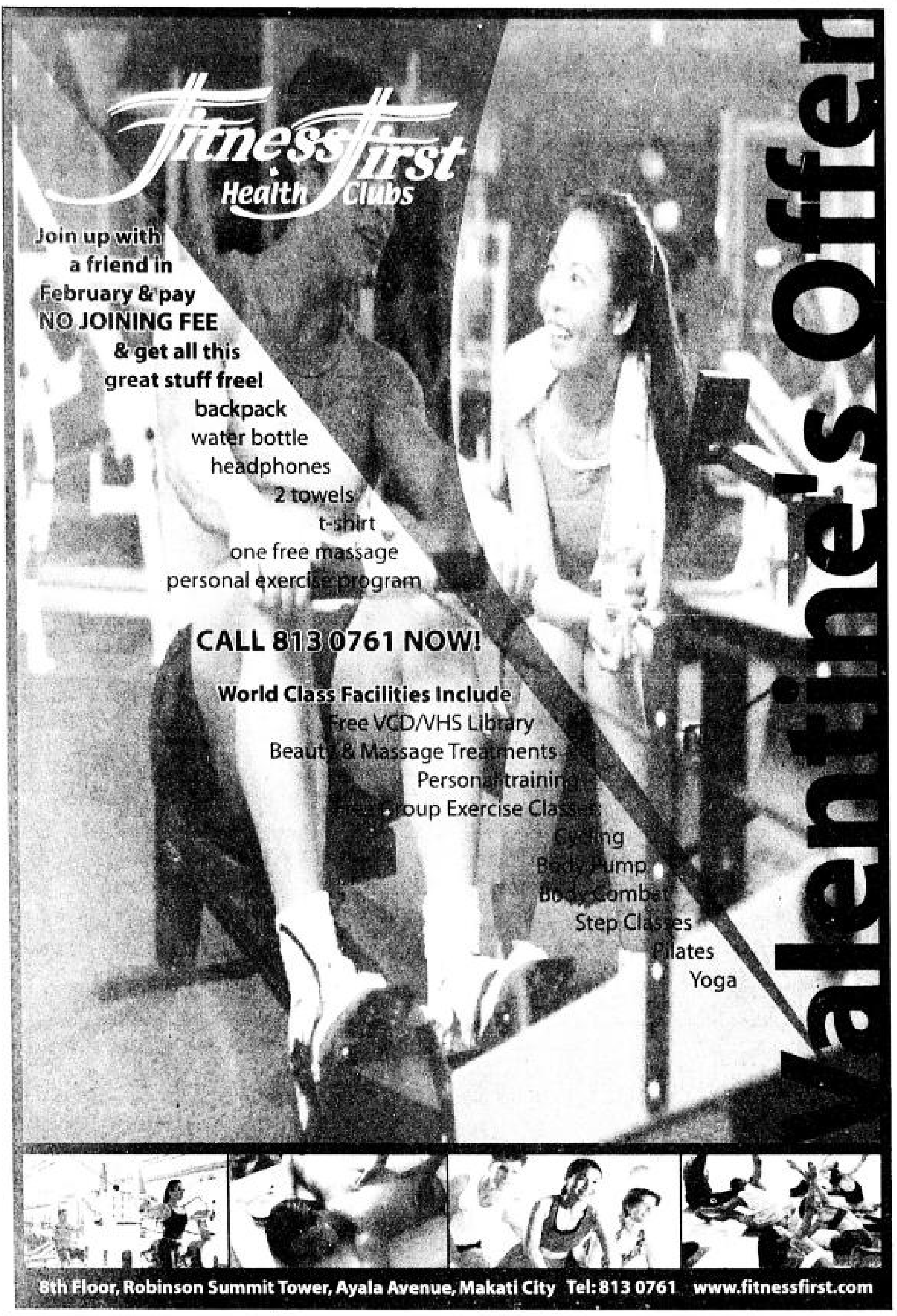
Changing of the guard at Senate

THERE has been a changing of the guard at the Senate.

After 15 years and four months of securing the Senate premises, the Philippine Marine Corps gave way to the Philippine National Police Special Action Force, which formally took over security chores yesterday.

In his speech during the turnover ceremonies, Senate President Franklin Drilon said it was "about time that we made a clear distinction between the duties of the Armed Forces and the PNP."

"It is just a question of clearly defining the functions of each and every unit of this government," he said.



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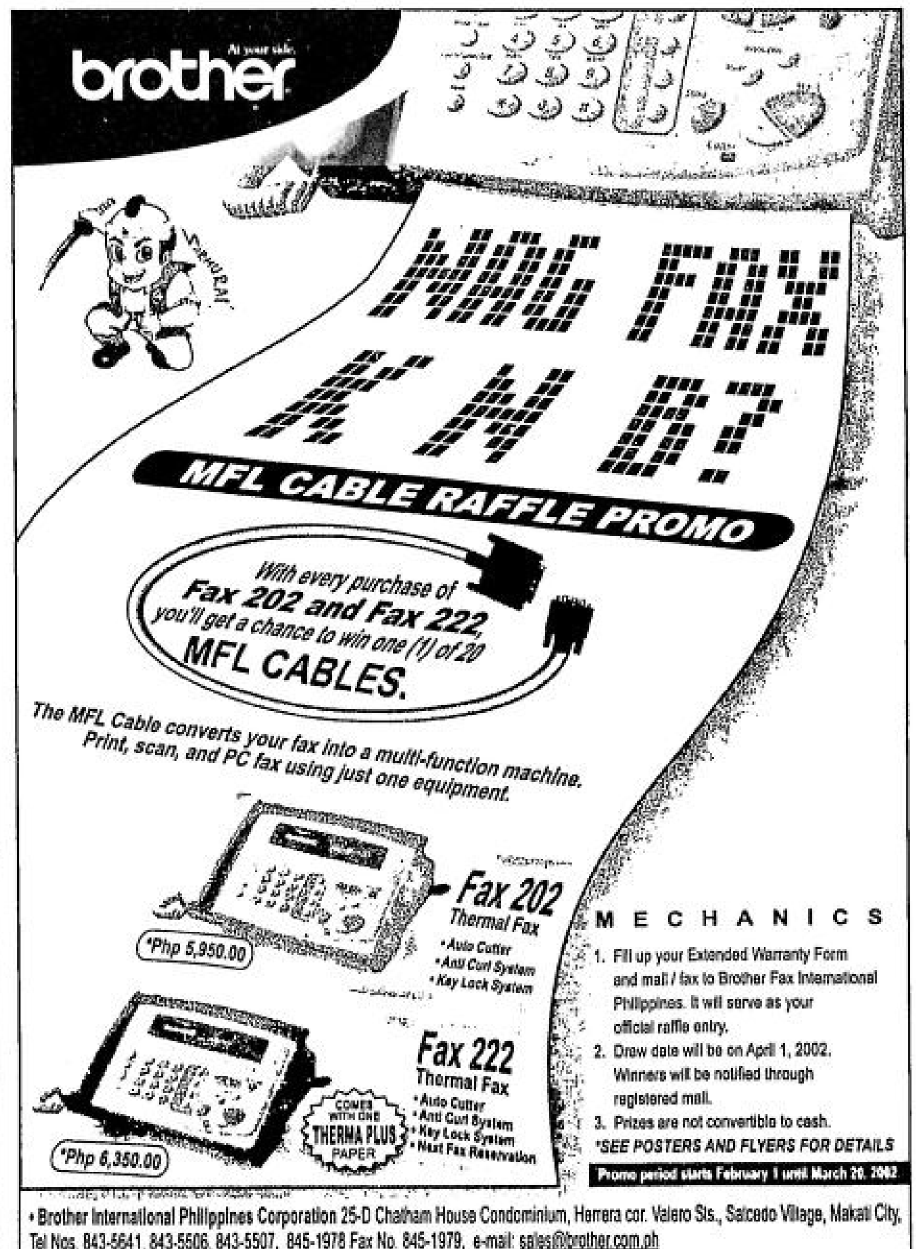

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No.1 USA

EARNING more than usual, thanks to the Afghan war, Amorsolo Batangan waits to guide a convoy of trucks off the ferry at the Guantanamo US Naval Base in Cuba. AP

Bush war boosts pay of RP workers in Guantanamo

From page A1

earned back home.

"Before, although the pay was bad, I was doing the job for the experience," said the 33-year-old who left a farming job in the Philippines to take a contract job with Burns & Roe, based in New Jersey.

"But since the prisoners arrived, more things are happening. We can make more money."

Building temporary cells to hold what US authorities have called some of the most dangerous men in the world has translated into more work and, consequently, more overtime and tips for the contract workers.

"We couldn't run the base without these folks," said base commander Capt. Robert Buehn.

Because Guantanamo is in Cuba, companies are exempt from US labor laws.

Many workers get free housing, which range from apartments to hotel-size rooms shared by two or three people. The contracts—normally for 18 months—also include meal subsidies and airfare home.

Keeping workers happy

Compared with the lush environs of the Philippines and Jamaica, this eastern tip of Cuba presents a stark contrast with its cactus and desert-like fields crawling with iguanas, groundhog-sized rodents, vultures and camouflaged ticks that burrow into the skin.

But base officials have gone the extra mile to keep the contract workers happy.

For the Filipino and Thai workers, rice and a variety of Asian sauces are sold in the commissary. For the Jamaicans, there's Blue Mountain coffee, Red Stripe beer, spicy jerk chicken sauce and tins of ackee, a breakfast fruit.

The contract workers, more interested in their bigger checks, shrug off complaints by human rights groups about America's treatment of the prisoners who are not categorized as prisoners of war, which would give them legal protection under the Geneva Conventions.

"We don't really think about politics. We're working," said Fernando Convocar, a 39-year-old Filipino who is the only air-conditioning technician on the western side of the base.

He spoke as he played a game of pool at the Clipper Club—a popular nightspot where Jamaicans tend bar and soldiers, journalists and other visitors guzzle beer.

For Convocar, the extra visitors, coupled with Cuba's searing heat, have brought sweet returns.

"I make about $550 per month but as more people come, I've been working about four hours of overtime each day and getting paid for it," he said.

He works for Kvaerner, a Norwegian engineering company that has 400 employees on Guantanamo.

Batangan, who says he's been here for nearly three years and just now started earning regular overtime, often daydreams about his wife, son and daughter as he makes the 25-minute ferry ride across the bay that divides the base.

"I can get mangoes and other things that I got when I was in the Philippines, but I miss home a lot." *AP*

Guessing . . .

From page A1

United States.

Romulo has been perceived in the inner circle of the Macapagal administration as the de facto secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Romulo's reported meddling on how the DFA should be run has brought much vexation to Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona.

Confrontation

At one point, Guingona found it imperative to confront Romulo in front of Ms Macapagal. The denials and regrets of Romulo notwithstanding, the bypassing of Guingona allegedly continued particularly in the assignments of ambassadors.

It is to Romulo, who was fired as foreign affairs chief by then President Fidel V. Ramos when Flor Contemplacion, the Filipino domestic helper, was hanged in Singapore, that the President allegedly turns for advice on foreign policies.

According to Tiglao, it will be up to Romulo if he wants to disclose the identities of the private contributors because he was the "one who raised private sector funds and committed for it."

Tiglao said government funding for the contract came from the President's contingent fund.

Proven

Tiglao said B&M had its "worth proven" with its work for Thailand and South Korea, and that benefits it will bring to the country "outweigh the engagement cost."

"It's precisely why he (Romulo) contracted B&M because of his assessment that we cannot just stop retaining a PR firm," Tiglao said.

Parties wanting to know the fine print of the contract should go to Washington because B&M is required under US laws to register whether it is acting as an agent for a foreign government, he said.

Tiglao said B&M's "main task is to improve the international credit standing of the Philippines."

"If you look at the contract it does not even mention anything about the President," Tiglao said in reference to charges that B&M's principal mission is to buff up Ms Macapagal's international image.

Tiglao also said that B&M's contract was "much less" than what the Philippine government had paid to other PR agencies during the terms of Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

Tiglao said the hiring of international PR companies had been a practice since the tenure of President Corazon Aquino.

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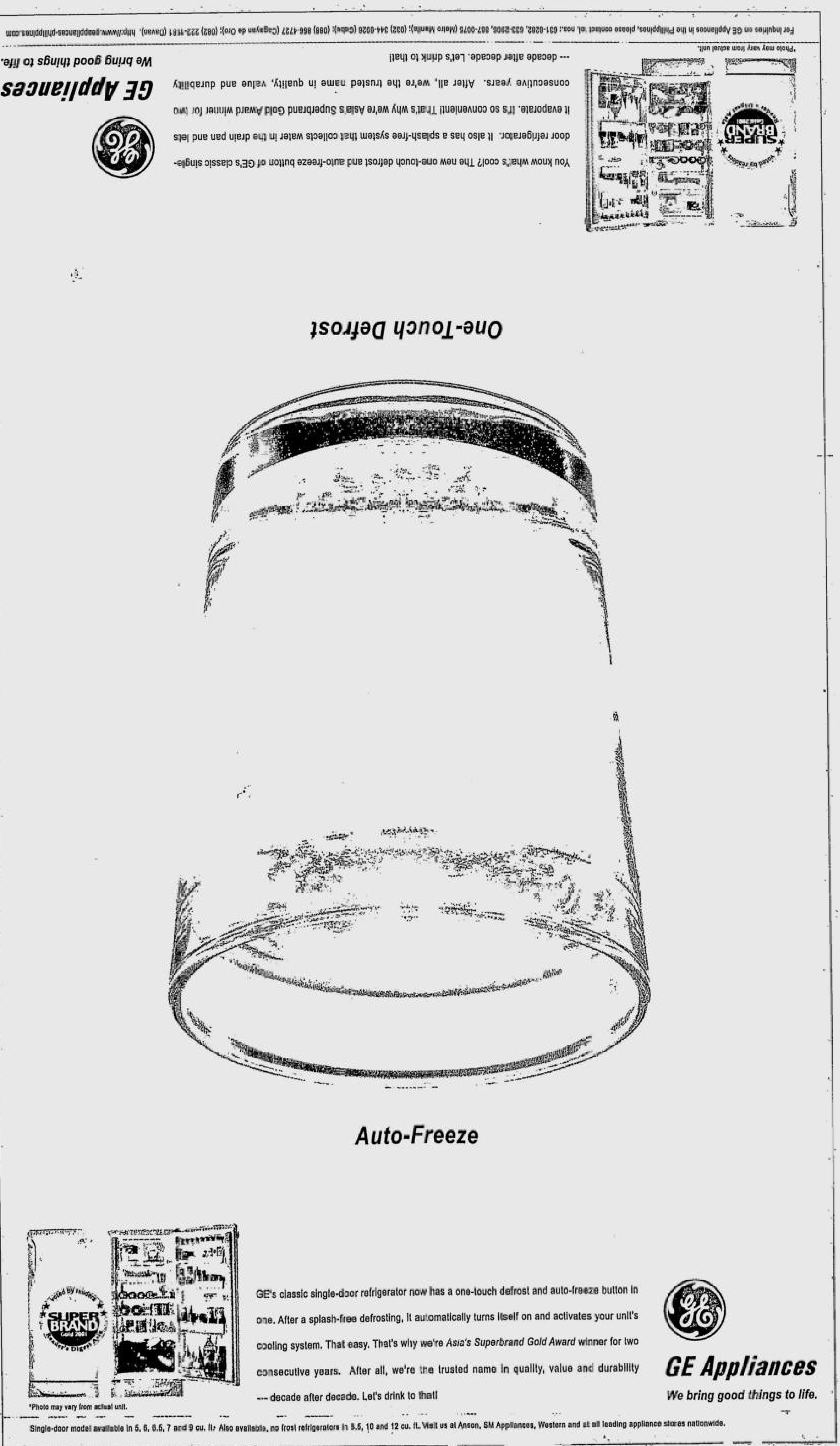

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Bush's warning

EDITORIAL

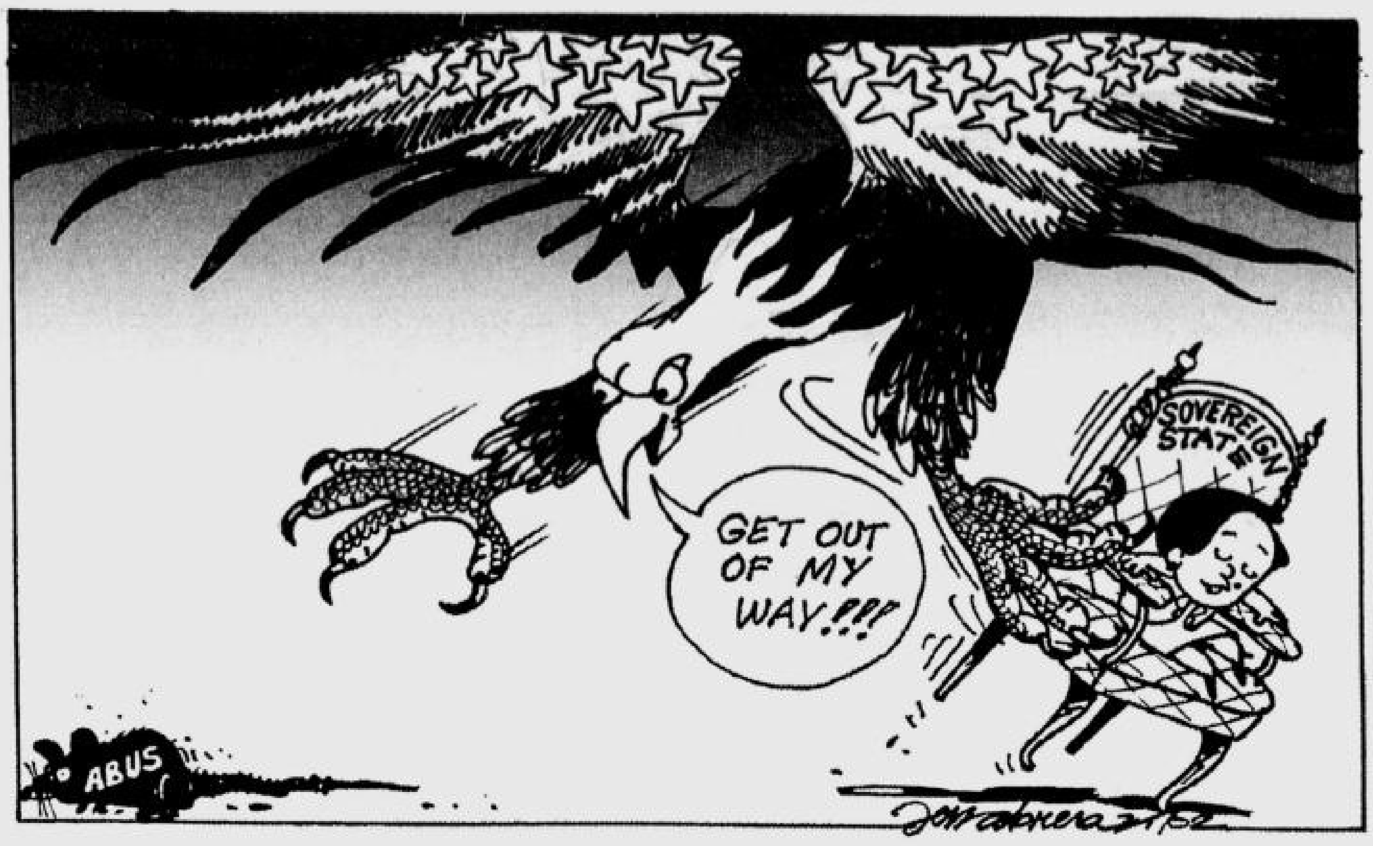
MANY Filipino political leaders are in an uproar over US President George W. Bush's threat to continue America's war against terrorism in any country harboring terrorist camps with or without the cooperation of their leaders. Bush told the US Congress Wednesday he was hoping that "all nations will heed our call and eliminate the terrorist parasites who threaten their countries and our own." However, he said, "some governments will be timid in the face of terror." And he added ominously: "If they will not act, America will."

It was an unmistakable warning to friend and foe alike that the United States would not be deterred from its pursuit of those who were responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States that killed more than 4,000 people. But it seems to have rubbed the sensibilities even of some of America's most ardent supporters. Justice Secretary Hernando Perez reminded Bush that "one president of a friendly country does not threaten another friendly country." Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said, "We are not going to allow the United States to impose its will on us and coerce us into doing anything against our national interest." Former President Fidel V. Ramos said Bush was misinformed and was "probably overstating the problem here in the Philippines."

Did they not hear Bush correctly perhaps? National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao believe the Philippines shouldn't feel alluded to. The Philippines has never been accused of harboring international terrorists, Golez pointed out. Bush's warning, said Tiglao, was directed at countries "that have been doing nothing against terrorism." Indeed, Bush clearly referred to "governments that are timid in the face of terrorism." And President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been anything but "timid" in responding to America's invitation to join it in its war against terrorism. On the contrary, Ms Macapagal was among the first foreign leaders to answer Bush's bugle call, rushing quickly to embrace America's war as her own. Not only that, she has welcomed the help of American troops in going after the Abu Sayyaf group which was linked to the al-Qaida network of international terrorists. With the Philippines firmly in America's camp, her security adviser and spokesperson are saying, there is nothing to fear about Bush's warning.

That is one way of interpreting Bush's threat, and the most obvious one. But what if the Philippine government fails to crush the Abu Sayyaf, say, in the next six months? Will Bush declare it to be "timid" and simply order the US Air Force to wipe Basilan and Sulu off the face of the earth? What if Ms Macapagal wavers in her commitment to let US Special Forces "train" Filipino troops right there in the jungle lairs of the Abu Sayyaf, will Bush not take that as a sign that she has grown "timid" in going after terrorists and order his troops to take over the fighting?

Timid is what Bush says timid is, and it spells trouble not only for America's enemies but also its friends. The Macapagal administration has gone to great lengths justifying America's involvement in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, stretching the constitutional and legal limits on the presence of foreign troops and foisting the fiction that actual combat constitutes on the job training. Her decision to seek American help apparently enjoys broad support from a public that has become frustrated over the military's failure to wipe out a bunch of bloodthirsty terrorists who count a couple of hundred members, according to government estimates. But there are a few key sectors that are not convinced about the wisdom of inviting US troops to solve what is basically a homegrown problem and who fear that America's military engagement in this part of the world will not end when the Abu Sayyaf is finally vanquished. And some of these, particularly the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New People's Army, are the very same groups that the government is trying to convince to lay down their arms and give peace a chance. Bush's fighting words won't help disabuse them of their fears.



Sinatra better than Clooney in 'Ocean's Eleven'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HAVE you seen the original "Ocean's Eleven" starring Frank Sinatra and the Rat Pack? (The movie being shown now is a remake of that one.) Probably not; you were most likely not born yet when the Rat Pack was young.

There is an interesting story behind that movie. Members of the Rat Pack (Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Peter Lawford, Joey Bishop) were performing in different casinos in Las Vegas at that time and they had nothing to do during the day. To relieve the boredom, Sinatra suggested they make a movie together. Wouldn't it be wonderful to rob several casinos at the same time? Can it be done? They wondered.

They toyed around with the idea and soon had the plot for a band of light-hearted rogues who successfully rob three Las Vegas casinos simultaneously. They had a movie. It was so successful that they made a few more Rat Pack movies, including a cavalry Western, all in the same light-hearted, tongue-in-cheek vein.

All but one (Bishop) of the original Rat Pack are dead but "Ocean's Eleven" lives on in the present remake starring George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Julia Roberts, Elliot Gould and other lovable rogues. Clooney is in the role played by Sinatra, Danny Ocean, leader of the pack. Garcia is the casino owner they rob, and Roberts is the prize—in addition to $163 million.

The new version is more slick, more up-to-date and has more gizmos than the original but personally I prefer the wise-cracking Sinatra over Clooney. Besides, the original had more crispy dialogue and more jokes. Probably memory, sentimentality and the love for Sinatra make me biased.

Anyway, the recently paroled Ocean goes to Las Vegas to look up his ex-wife (Roberts) who is now the mistress of wealthy and ruthless casino owner Garcia. In his head is a plan to rob Garcia's three casinos during fight night, with a heavyweight title bout, during which the casino vault would be bulging with $163 million. He would need 11 men to do the caper.

The first part of the movie dwells on the recruiting of the various rogues to do the various jobs, in itself as exciting as the robbery itself. This is in the same vein as the recruitment of the condemned prisoners in "The Dirty Dozen," and of the mercenaries in the Western "The Magnificent Seven" (in itself a remake of Akira Kurosawa's classic "The Seven Samurai" and which gave birth to the theme music composed by Elmer Bernstein and which is now the distinctive music for the Marlboro cigarette commercials).

The robbery itself is as exciting as any James Bond flick with unexpected hitches and suspense. But so as not to rob you of the pleasure of watching the movie unfold, I'll cut this short by saying that they succeed—of course—with a loot of $163 million divided equally 11 ways. In round figures, that comes to almost $15 million apiece—not bad for a night's work.

The original was probably the first movie to show that crime pays, which probably did not sit well with the present Movie Production Code in Hollywood. So the remake has an epilogue that takes place three to six months later when Ocean gets out of the slammer for the second time (he was sent in again for violating his parole) and the movie ends ambiguously, with Garcia's two gorillas tailing the lovers. They may or may not get away with the crime.

An entertaining flick, truth to tell, except that all the efforts of the gang would not be so impressive to Filipinos. The success of the whole job depends on electricity. The gang blacked out Las Vegas to get through the electric eyes guarding the vault. That's not a hard thing to do. A school of jellyfish can do that here.

* * *

Members of the NVM Gonzalez Foundation thank the donor-artists and the art lovers who shelled out P5,000 for each of the 100 tickets sold for the art raffle last Saturday. The donated works of art exceeded the 100 tickets, so a few winning numbers were given two art pieces and P2,500 for a work of art, what a bargain! Plus there are six more donated paintings left over for next year's raffle. They arrived late.

All the winners went home very happy. One jumped with joy when he saw at the back of the painting he won its original price: P35,000. Many of the other pieces are worth more or only a little less.

To the artists and art collectors: Thank you for your generosity. Bless your hearts. You will see your donations in the form of prize-winning short stories published in magazines and books.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Former MNLF Chair and ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari has been incommunicado in a military camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, since his arrival from Malaysia. His trial for rebellion will start on Feb. 16. What does he say of the charges against him? What is his defense? How does he look like now? Did he lose or gain weight from all the inactivity? Nobody outside of the camp knows.

You'll know this Monday when he becomes the guest of the Kapihan sa Manila at the Manila Hotel.

Logic 101

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A TV reporter was interviewing some folk in Basilan who said they were all for American troops being there. The Abu Sayyaf had been terrorizing them for many years now, they said, and some members of their families had fallen victims to the group's bloodthirstiness. Clearly, they said, the Armed Forces of the Philippines was powerless to rid the world of the scourge. The soldiers were not making things better, they were making things worse. The Americans were their last hope, they said, and so they were welcoming them with open arms.

A local government official next said that the decision to allow American troops in Basilan was a popular one, only a few leftist groups were opposed to it. That, he said, was the best argument for it, the fact that the people themselves wanted it.

Let us grant several things, for the sake of argument.

Let us grant that the sentiment expressed by the TV interviewees is representative of the Basilan folk in general. Even if that raises questions about how the Abu Sayyaf has managed to thrive all this time despite Erap's and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's call for the AFP to capture or kill them at all costs. Which must suggest that they are able to submerge themselves like fish in water in the largely Tausug community there.

Let us grant that the decision to bring back American troops to this country is a popular one, even if some surveys say otherwise. Let us grant that the only people opposed to it are leftists, a label that presumably naturally vitiates the validity of their opposition. Let us grant that people like Jovito Salonga and Teofisto Guingona are leftists, which was what they were called anyway when they voted against the US bases in 1991. That was how Salonga in particular was called in the 1992 elections. Erap himself was called a leftist, or a coddler of leftists, before he became president and bamboozled everyone into approving the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Let us grant that the American forces are there only- -if at all—to do battle with the Abu Sayyaf, as part of their realistic war games. Let us grant that they are not there to secure a part of the country that holds the prospect of being converted into a port for American warships. Let us grant that they are there out of the goodness of their hearts, and are determined only to rescue the Basilan folk from the Abu Sayyaf the way they rescued the Afghans from the Talibans. Let us grant that they will make things better rather than worse, despite the political problems in the Muslim south that do not lend themselves blithely to terrorists vs. anti-terrorist dichotomies.

Let us grant all that. But still, Houston, we have a problem.

The Philippine National Police is obviously powerless to rid itself of the scourge of crime too—an argument it has used to finagle a bigger budget each year, which has led only to more crime, therefore a more patent display of powerlessness, and therefore a bigger budget the following year. That being the case, why don't we ask for a group of FBI agents to solve this problem for us? Why don't we ask them to give us a hand in solving the murders of Nida Blanca and Baron Alexander Cervantes? Why don't we ask them to go deep into the urban jungles of Tondo—or whichever place in Metro Manila has usurped the title of murder-and-mayhem capital—and rid this land of the ungodly and tattooed? If the deployment of American troops and advisers is a welcome or popular one, why shouldn't the swarming of American law enforcement experts here be the same thing?

Government has obviously been powerless to solve cronyism, corruption and abuse of power by public officials. We've had a couple of Edsas that replaced corrupt tyrants and that held the promise of the dawning of a new day. Only for them to turn out to be more of the same. Certainly, the scale of cronyism, corruption and abuse of power in Cory's time was little better than that of Marcos' time—worse, if you consider the very short time in which they happened. Government has obviously been powerless to solve human rights abuses, constitutional violations and a culture of nepotism and patronage, which riot more fiercely than a mob of angry poor at Mendiola. Why don't we ask a group of American political advisers to come over and solve these problems for us? If American troops are welcome, and popular, there is no reason why this shouldn't be so as well.

And we have obviously been powerless to solve our poverty, our capacity to hold on to our citizens or at least claim their abiding allegiance, our sense of drift. More than half a century after acquiring independence—or more than a century after we struggled mightily for it—we are nowhere near to holding our destiny in our hands than when we began. Other Southeast Asian countries have surged ahead, some of whose current leaders once studied in Philippine schools, armed only with the knowledge of what they wanted to do with the knowledge they gained. Why don't we ask America to step in and help govern us? Or better still, why don't we seek to become part of America, like Hawaii?

Which is what the logic of that argument boils down to. Our inability to do the simplest things required of a sovereign country and the seeming popularity of American intervention in our affairs do not argue merely for American troops on our shores. They argue for US statehood, the same one Cabangbang used to pitch before martial law, and which platform he campaigned vigorously for in presidential elections every year. He never won of course, despite the arguable popularity of his cause.

Why don't we cut to the chase and just apply all our energies to becoming the 51st state of the United States? It is our last hope. We should embrace it with open arms.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

A presidential 'faux pas'

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IN THE WAKE of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to Britain, the first leg of her eight-day trip that includes Canada and New York, the local press has been swamped by stories date-lined London reporting "windfalls" from the visit. One reported result is the predicted increase of British foreign investment to $3 billion from the current level of $2 billion.

The reports also highlighted meetings with Prime Minister Tony Blair, in which they talked about the pressing war on terror into the area of poverty alleviation, and with the authentic "Iron Lady," former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. As is well known, Blair was the most articulate interlocutor of the US-led campaign against terrorism following the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States. Blair supplied the words and the eloquence that US President George W. Bush lacked to galvanize global support for Bush's campaign.

Ms Macapagal was thrilled by her meeting with Thatcher, her leadership model, and she must have found comfort to know that if Thatcher was a tough and successful leader, she is not charismatic at all, but she crushed the power of the trade unions and the junta in Argentina in the Falklands War.

Note that the claim that she bagged larger British investments is based on prediction—in other words, thin air. Claims of results from presidential state visits are pretty routine to justify the visits, but they must be considered against the background that when the President began her trip, she was hounded by controversy over the hiring of the international public relations firm, Burson and Martseller (B&M), reportedly for $1 million, to give her visit a favorable projection in the host countries. It is, of course, true that previous presidents, from President Aquino, to Presidents Ramos and Estrada, hired PR firms to set up important contacts and exposure for their foreign visits but that's not the point.

B&M has set up some of her appointments, especially with the media and private organizations (the official appointments were arranged by the government and our ambassadors and special envoys, hence, B&M can't claim credit for these). But behind the media exposure and the published souvenir photos showing her talking with Blair, Thatcher, or with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada, the visit to London was marred by a PR fiasco.

According to my well-placed source in London, she came through as a provincial politician when she delivered the keynote speech at Westminster Cathedral where an "ecumenical service for peace" was held. The service was a big ceremony with leaders of different faiths, the diplomatic community, the Lord Mayor of London, other mayors of the City of London, businessmen and members of the Philippine community.

My source said she was "floating in the air" when she "misused" the occasion for a "small-minded speech" on the role of the overseas Filipino workers in their economic contributions to the Philippine economy and to the rest of the world. She addressed the Filipino community but the international audience found her speech painful. In the first place, she delivered 90 percent of her speech in Filipino right in the seat of the English language. She must have thought she was delivering her State of the Nation Address to Congress or her New Year's *"ulat sa bayan."*

She was supposed to speak on the theme of peace and understanding, but her focus on the OFWs left a strong impression among the foreign audience that her speech was "actually just a domestic campaign" transplanted from the slums of Manila to the heart of an international community. She was expected to give a speech with a worldview, but she excluded most of her foreign audience in Westminster Cathedral by speaking in Filipino.

Ms Macapagal is strutting on the world stage to project herself as a regional leader with a strategic view of the world and in one respect, the foreign press is taking her seriously when Time magazine made her a cover story in one of its issues last month. But in London, she reverted to her provincial outlook and there were mouths open during her speech, aghast at her domestic theme and her speaking in her national language probably to show she is nationalistic. She saved money by speaking at Westminster Cathedral, instead of paying for a convention center, but, according to one observer, "she lost a lot of sympathy for herself and for the country."

Her performance at Westminster raises questions whether she is getting sound advice from B&M and whether money is well-spent on this PR agency. Her trip to New York, after her Canadian visit, puts her in the center of international political and economic leaders in the World Economic Forum, whose winter conference has traditionally been held in Davos, Switzerland. The President is not a novice in the WEF; she spoke at the forum in Singapore in 1999, and she is at home in this forum because of her economic knowledge and competence. There, she has no opportunity to talk to OFWs, and this prevents her from lapsing to her provincial outlook. There are no votes there for 2004.

Malice

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LET me begin with what a businessman-friend, who shall remain anonymous because I haven't had time to seek his permission to reprint his views, wrote in an e-mail on the issue of the PEACe Bonds.

"Based on what I know of the transaction and based on what I've heard from respectable and knowledgeable bankers, there is nothing legally wrong with the transaction. At worst, it's a bad case of poor public relations—one cannot deny the fact that the blood relation exists. However, when one puts malice into the transaction—in any transaction—this relationship is helpful, but not essential."

Unfortunately, judging from much of the coverage and commentary on the transaction, criticism of both Code-NGO and Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho seems based mainly on malice, on the sly, often unsaid, implication that the PEACe Bonds flotation and the consequent profit made from it would not have been possible were Camacho not the finance secretary and his sister the current chair of Code-NGO.

As I understand it, Secretary Camacho, precisely because he was aware he was vulnerable to charges of favoritism even if he "came in" when the negotiations were almost over, distanced himself from the matter and left it to an undersecretary to deal with Code-NGO. Even so, a commentator insists this was not enough, that Camacho should have "gone on leave" at least until the auction was over. But if, as my businessman-friend put it, one prefers to see "malice" in the transaction, perhaps even this would not have protected Camacho from the flak coming his way.

* * *

SEN. John Osmeña, no friend of the NGO community, has even gone so far as to see connections where there are none. The reason Dan Songco of Code-NGO has been able to appear on ANC to defend their side in this controversy, Osmeña claimed on radio, is that ABS-CBN Foundation is a member of Code-NGO. ANC happens to be owned by ABS-CBN, the broadcasting network, but the foundation is an entirely separate entity. Also, one of the ANC hosts is Carmina Constantino, the niece of Karina Constantino-David, the founding chair of Code-NGO and now the current chair of the Civil Service Commission.

Well, I don't know for sure if ABS-CBN Foundation is a member of Code-NGO, but so what? And true, Carmina is Karina's niece, but again, so what? Doesn't Code-NGO have the right to defend itself against malicious charges? Putting Songco on air to explain their side is the least a responsible journalist could do.

* * *

THAT'S just par for the course for politicians, though, and nothing they do or say should surprise us anymore. More puzzling is the position taken by other NGOs on the PEACe Bonds issue.

"Rent-seeking" is the term they chose to apply to what Code-NGO did in working for the issuance of "zeroes," saying it was unseemly, if not unethical, for a non-government organization, even if it's the largest network in the country, to interact with government agencies for its own interest and profit. "There are limits to NGO dealings with government," they said.

But NGOs deal with government all the time. Early in its history, the NGO community saw itself as the protector of the people against the government, and then the provider of services that government could not or would not provide. More recently, NGOs have realized that they could do more and help more people if they got over this hostility and began working WITH government in pursuit of common goals.

NGOs lobby with legislators for the passage of laws to benefit both the public interest and that of their sectors. NGOs seek to be represented on government bodies, such as local bidding committees, to sit as both watchdogs against corruption and advocates for underserved sectors. NGOs even accept government funds to "bring down" projects and services to the grass-roots level where government has no presence.

If it's unethical for an NGO to seek a benefit through government action (no matter to what end), would it not also be unethical for an NGO to accept funding from a foreign government, multinational agency or foundation? Would not schmoozing with the country representative of a foreign funder constitute rent-seeking behavior, too? Why is it wrong to seek to influence government to benefit one's sector, but all right to do the same for the money of foreign taxpayers or tycoons?

* * *

LET me quote my businessman-friend again.

"When we talk about 'revolution,' we are really talking, in a sense, about taking away the ability of the elite to seek rent especially because such an activity is almost always at the expense of the poor. So when the poor behave exactly like the rich for their own benefit, should we criticize them? I don't think we should, in fact we should encourage more rent-seeking from the poor. This will be more peaceful and more effective and efficient than the mother of all rent-seeking activities 'a full-scale bloody revolution!'"

As I wrote at the start of what has become an unintended treatise, the traditional funding sources for NGO activities are drying up. Some "thinking out of the box" had to be tried, and soon, if the work of development NGOs was not to wither on the vine for lack of nutrients. The sad thing is that one of Code-NGOs goals in conceiving the PEACe Bonds was to explore alternative ways for NGOs to raise money and ensure their sustainability. With the ruckus being raised, it's doubtful, though if other NGOs would be similarly emboldened to experiment. And we are all the poorer for it.

American brothel keeper, 1902

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

PROSTITUTION may be the so-called "oldest profession" in the world but it is largely invisible in history. Then as now, everyone knows it exists but looks the other way. About 15 years ago, when Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc was still editor of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine and I was not yet a couch potato, I offered to write an article about the way the Makati commercial and business district changed at night. Makati was glitzy and *sosyal* by day but sleazy at night. Sex was not only peddled on the streets but informal zoning was in place—female prostitutes took the Rustan's side of Ayala Avenue, male prostitutes (forgive the pun) hung around the Ayala triangle then the Ugarte field, and transvestites cruised in the dark backside of the Peninsula.

After interviews, I felt I had enough human interest to add color and tears to a story that regularly got a few sentences in the INQUIRER's Metro page. When Mrs. M asked for the article, I backed out by arguing that if we gave these people unwanted publicity the police and the so-called guardians of morality would run them out of business. Mrs. M argued that they would just transfer somewhere else. While the people I interviewed were survivors, I shelved my material and wrote some harmless historical piece for Mrs. M. Since then, Makati has changed a lot and, as Mrs. M predicted, the flesh trade merely moved somewhere else. In my frantic search for a column topic today, I found the thick Manila envelope in my files marked, "Prostitution, Sex Gangs, Sex" beside another marked "Lucila Lalu." I was so industrious in my youth that I had saved enough material in my files for many a rainy day.

The recent controversy over the RP-US Balikatan exercises drew me to a 1902 investigation on prostitution condoned by the US military. Images of comfort women came to mind as I read the letter of Adrian B. French of the US Hospital Corps assigned to Jolo in 1901, who claimed that a house of prostitution was run by a certain Lt. Col. Owen J. Sweet of the 21st Infantry. The sex dens were located in a back street of the town, one house actually reserved for officers only. There were about 35 to 40 girls imported from Singapore, Borneo and Japan. If there were any Filipinas, they were not Muslim and were not from Mindanao. Sex was sold for $1 and if a man (enlisted or officer) decided to keep a woman for the entire night, the fee was $2.50. To contain the spread of venereal disease, the women were inspected weekly by US army surgeons.

More documentation for the controversy came in court cases on soldiers dismissed from the service for stealing money or blankets from the prostitutes. This brothel was such a lucrative operation that when Sweet returned to the United States due to his failing health, the prostitutes of the town presented him with a watch worth about $200. I thought I was in for lurid reading, but the reports collated by the US military were vague and evasive. Naturally, in the course of the investigation, the prostitutes and the brothel seemed to disappear. Nobody seemed to know anything about them, and if they did know about a brothel, this was all *before* they arrived in Jolo. It was a preexisting condition. Fruit of my frustration were two letters from Sweet explaining his actions and arguing that, "In handling the question at issue, I may have erred in decision and judgment somewhat, yet success is best assured from final results."

When Sweet took command of the 23rd Infantry at Jolo in September 1899, he claimed that like Manila, Iloilo, Cebu and other places, there was immorality and lawlessness. He took it upon himself to control—with a view to eliminating—drunkenness, gambling, smuggling and prostitution. Saloons, gambling houses and brothels were raided and padlocked. When these opened again, even in another location, they were closed yet again. Sweet recognized that Jolo was a "polygamous country...land of concubines and female slaves, and an almost wholly immoral women community," yet he regulated the brothels, had all women and soldiers examined by military surgeons and set up a quarantine for venereal diseases outside town. He added:

"All notorious women were watched, restrained and examined; some were arrested and locked up, and some were forced to leave Jolo, while others were actually deported. Attempts were made to examine all known, noted women. Those found infected with so-called Asiatic diseases were deported. At one time some twenty women were driven out of this Augean pool. There were probably a hundred women under the ban at this time. In various ways I kept up a system of attrition that slowly tended to reduce the number. I first and eventually rid the towns of the Chinese, then the miscellaneous characters, then the Moro women, in the least objectionable and yet most quiet way conceivable, and from time to time the most objectionable of the Japanese women, and then gradually the worse classes of the Visaya and Filipino women."

Did Sweet control or promote prostitution in Jolo? It depends on how you interpret the documents and his own words, "Being mortal I acted to the best of my judgment and ability, and time and history will, I feel, vindicate my administration."

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Where are the answers?

COMMENTARY

Andrea Soco

Institute on Church and Social Issues

ROWENA, 32, repacks garlic for a living. The short and stocky mother with a welcoming smile labors from late in the afternoon until late at night in her one-room house filling countless plastic bags with garlic bundles. While the pay is measly, she cannot forego the opportunity to earn a living and help her husband feed their three children and send them to school. Looking for work in the area, after all, is like looking for a needle in a haystack, and having a job is a huge blessing. So, despite the ache in her eyes and fingers and the pervading odor of garlic in the stuffy room, Rowena asks for nothing else but a sense of security and some proof that things will change for the better.

Rowena lives in Kasiglahan Village, a relocation site in Montalban, Rizal. She was transferred there from Quezon City in March 2000 as part of the government's relocation project for informal settlers along the banks of the Pasig River. Because the relocation was a major undertaking of the government, Rowena has access to various government agencies that meet regularly to assess the conditions in the relocation site. Yet, Rowena feels that the meetings have not lived up to the expectations of the relocatees. "All the government representatives do is report about the situation and what they have done. We still need to see some results."

Many Kasiglahan residents feel the same way. Though they are able to get their problems across, they believe that no one is really listening. One resident told of how, at one point, they even had to convince some representatives that the water situation in the site was serious. According to him, the water had amoeba and two children have died because of it, but some representatives wanted to brush the urgency of the problem aside. "It looks like they weren't concerned at all," he said. With this kind of treatment, it is no wonder that even after a few years of living in the site, many relocatees still feel abandoned; dumped and left for good in the area.

Kasiglahan relocatees are not the only ones who think that their concerns are unimportant to the government. In a series of consultations held by Icsi in three urban poor communities, including Kasiglahan Village, the general sentiment of the people was, "*hindi kami pinapansin ng gobyerno*."

Josie, a lanky mother of 10 and a resident of Payatas, feels that the problems she and her neighbors face have gone largely unnoticed by the government. While Payatas has received much media mileage for its identity as a dump and for the trash slide that buried hundreds of families in July 2000, Josie and her neighbors think that such publicity did not really help in getting the government's attention, especially when it comes to providing them with basic services. "The government responded by cleaning up the roads leading to our area. That's all." Josie and her neighbors are especially hard-pressed because many of them have husbands who do contractual labor and are frequently laid off. The loss of jobs means hunger for their families. And because Payatas is a large area, some of the residents are not able to avail of the free medical services provided by various groups. They try to obtain medicine at the barangay office but often come home empty-handed. "The government minds only those who have money," Josie remarked. "We have so many problems here—health, water, food, money, land, housing and livelihood—but nobody seems to care." Art, of Barangay Commonwealth, was more blunt when he exclaimed, "Do we have to protest in the streets for the government to hear us out?"

Such are the sentiments of a number of urban poor, and they reveal that much still needs to be done, not only by the government, but also by civil society, to give them hope. The present administration's thrust of solidarity with the poor is especially fitting, since part of this thrust is genuinely listening to the grievances of the poor and acting upon them.

While listening to the poor is not a new concept for civil society, it has been overshadowed by the more traditional and top-down approach of educating and creating a more aware mass. "Edsa III" jolted both the government and civil society groups into rethinking such an approach. The sheer number of people who made up "Edsa III," and their capacity to sustain it, was a shock to many. It was certainly humbling to admit that despite years of organizing the poor and analyzing the country's poverty situation, there is still a lot about the poor that we do not know, civil society interventions are still not reaching a significant percentage of the population, and much still needs to be done. President Macapagal herself stands on shaky ground in the face of many of the poor who do not consider her presidency a legitimate one. Hence, listening to the poor should become an important component of government action—and an apt one if the government is to become a government of the people. A large segment of the poor is, after all, unorganized, and feels isolated from, and forgotten by, the government.

Listening to, and being in solidarity with, the poor, however, are not enough to make many of them feel that they are part of society, that their grievances are legitimate and that there is hope of a better life for them. Now that the President is making the rounds of poor communities once again, perhaps the grievances of these people will find their way into action that would bring concrete results. The important thing to note is that different communities have different problems. One community's solution may not do for another community, and could only further the belief among the poor that the government does not really listen to them. With proper targeting, the poor might be able to feel that the answers are finally coming.

THEY SAID

Faultless pilots

"Perhaps the only error committed by our pilots here is waking up on that fateful morning of Jan. 14 and flying the PAF's S-211."

—Sen. Vicente Sotto III saying "pilot error" should no longer be used to explain the latest tragedy involving the Italian-made trainer jet that earned a monicker of "widow-makers"

Dynamite salute

"Every morning, you can hear something like a 21-gun salute near the islands, courtesy of blast fishers."

—Barangay councilman Severino Veniola on the rampant destruction of marine life in Pangasinan's Hundred Islands

Not show biz

"Government is too serious to be handled like show business."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo defending her leadership style, which people criticize as lacking in charisma

Eroded credibility

"These fresh charges of impropriety against Desierto, in addition to a pending impeachment case lodged against him in the House of Representatives, are fast eroding the credibility of the Ombudsman."

—Sen. Blas Ople reacting to accusations of whitewash on a tax scam case against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto

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We must review contracts with the IPPs now

AT THE HEIGHT of the debates and discussions on the privatization of the National Power Corp. and power sector reforms, we of the Freedom from Debt Coalition kept pointing to the onerous contracts of the Napocor with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) as one of the main culprits behind high electricity rates. Now that the bill has been passed—with the help no doubt of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's own version of Erap's payola—the mandated 30-centavo decrease in electricity rates has been far overshadowed by consistent increases in the PPA or purchased power adjustment charge. Those onerous contracts continue to be the reason for this deplorable trend.

Obviously, the inter-agency committee created by the Power Sector Reform Bill to review these onerous contracts, is not moving. Or if it is, it is moving ever so slowly. But it is clearly not moving to renegotiate, if not rescind those contracts, and thereby bring down electricity prices.

But something is brewing in Cavite while the government's own IPP contracts review committee remains idle. As columnist Dan Mariano points out in the Jan. 23 issue of Today, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) recently revoked the exclusive Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) between the Magellan Cogeneration Inc. (MCI) and the Cavite Export Processing Zone Authority (Cepza). According to Mariano, Peza reportedly resorted to this action "following a long history of continuing unreliable service and breaches of the provisions of the PPA."

Hurrah for this government agency, which is doing what an inter-agency committee mandated by law has not even begun to think of doing.

We believe that the Peza-MCI case highlights many of the unpalatable traits that characterize contracts involving IPPs. Contrary to MCI's commitment to provide "adequate, reliable and competitively priced supply of electricity," there had been several instances when MCI was unable to generate the much-needed power. Our sources tell us that this is because MCI's plant has not been operating regularly and is no longer working at the capacity needed by the Cepza. It has merely been buying power from the Napocor through the latter's one-day power sales (ODPS), then reselling it to Cepza. In short, MCI, far from being a power generator, is a plain and simple middleman.

The irony is that it has been brokering between two government corporations, and profiting on both ends of the deal.

But all this is just the tip of the iceberg. Can the MCI's plant actually run? Are the export industries located in Cavite, losing their competitiveness because MCI has tied Peza to a contract it cannot fulfill? What is the record of MCI—whose mother company has been called "one of America's wackiest conglomerates" by Fortune magazine—with regard to environmental pollution? In the midst of the Enron bankruptcy unfolding in the United States and throughout the world (including the Philippines), do we need to ask as well if MCI's financial reporting is sound and accurate?

How many more IPPs are in this situation? Come to think of it, how many of these IPP plants actually operate? We know we are paying for their idle capacity. We see it in our bills and we feel it in our pockets. But can these plants actually run?

We cannot stress enough the need for a thorough investigation of MCI's contracts with Peza and the Napocor. We said it then, when the bill was being debated, and we'll say it again, now that the law has been passed: Without a thorough critical review of these contracts, there will be no end to the high electricity rates that we consumers are being made to pay, without even the promise of a stable supply of *kuryente*.

The Peza decision is a wake-up call to the Macapagal administration. We hope the inter-agency review committee regains consciousness, realizes the full implications of its mandate and finally moves on these contracts.

But we cannot rely on this committee alone if the Macapagal administration's deals with Danding Cojuangco, Lucio Tan, Mark Jimenez, et al. are anything to go by. Which is why we demand full disclosure and transparency in the whole review process. If the government won't budge, then give us the information and we'll conduct the review ourselves.—**MARIA TERESA DIOKNO-PASCUAL, president, Freedom from Debt Coalition, 34 Matiaga St., Central District, Quezon City**

Foreign carriers don't operate domestic flights

OVER THE PAST few days, Robert Lim Joseph Jr., a self-proclaimed leader of the travel industry through his Save Our Skies (SOS) Movement, has again been doing the media rounds, sowing fear and confusion over the Philippine government's civil aviation liberalization policy. Joseph claims that the local aviation industry will be killed if foreign carriers are allowed to operate domestic flights. The only solution to this, he says, is to adopt "progressive liberalization" as opposed to the government's "open skies" policy.

To say the least, Joseph is totally confused and his views are exceedingly warped.

Foreign carriers will not kill the small airlines in the country because they are not allowed to handle domestic flights. "Cabotage," as it is called, is neither allowed nor contemplated by the move to liberalize air access into the country so domestic air carriers should rest easy.

"Open skies," in the strictest sense of the word, does not exist. What civil aviation on liberalization advocates refer to as "open skies" is not the full, unhampered opening up of access into the country by anybody who wants to fly into it. Rather, it is a bilateral and reciprocal process between two groups. Thus, open skies between the United States and the Philippines, for example, will only be achieved if both parties agree to it and there is a quid pro quo or one party gets exactly the same thing or value the other gets in exchange.

Civil aviation liberalization is not an overnight process. It goes through multiple steps and negotiations between the two countries' aviation authorities, their respective diplomats all the way to the highest levels of the respective countries' authorities. So it does not make sense for Joseph to talk of "progressive liberalization," because the very process is precisely progressive. What has to be decided and acted upon by the Philippine government is to have a policy to liberalize air access into the country now to initiate the long process. As the saying goes: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

The country can no longer afford such shenanigans and unsubstantiated rabble-rousing as Joseph's. This is no different from the useless politicking and obstructionism that are stopping our economy from moving forward.—**NARZALINA LIM, chair, Freedom to Fly Coalition**

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Maynilad's response to client's complaint

THIS refers to the letter of Lorna S. Torre last Jan. 12, 2002.

First, we would like to apologize to Torre regarding her inability to get water from her newly installed water service connection. Presently, Better Living Subdivision where Torre resides is experiencing low water pressure, as do most subdivisions in Parañaque, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa, which are part of our South Business Area.

This is due to the fact that, even as Maynilad Water pursued its expansion program immediately after the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System was privatized in 1997, the additional water supply of 300 million liters a day which was supposed to have been put on stream by January 2000 had not materialized. This would have complemented the present water supply in the South Business Area.

What makes matters worse is that UN Street, where Torre's house is located, has an elevation of from 16 to 18 meters. At the existing 2 psi available in the area, water cannot reach her property.

As regards Torre's billing starting Dec. 15, 2000, this was the actual date that her meter was installed and, naturally, billing commenced that day.

As to the reimbursement of Torre's installation charges, that amount represents the one-time installation fee that everyone who wants to get connected to our water service pays which covers the labor and materials involved in laying the access pipe from the tapping point at the mainline to the property line of the applicant. This is not reimbursable.

We got in touch with Torre on the day her letter appeared in the INQUIRER and assured her that, in the meantime, the water supply situation in Parañaque remains as it has been, so we shall address her need for water through our tankering service. She thanked us for our quick response.

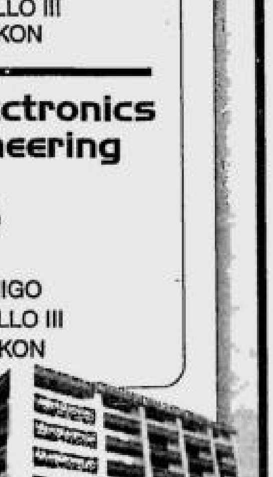
We would like to take this opportunity to assure our customers that Maynilad is doing everything possible to improve the water supply situation within its concession, especially in the South Business Area.—**ERIC H. DUMANCAS, manager, Maynilad Water Services Inc., South Business Area**

Tactic to avoid taxes

THIS is in answer to an item in the article by Frank Cimatu, "Widow sells recession-proof furniture." (PDI, 1/13/02)

The article mentioned that "getting the barangay clearance had been a burden," referring to Marjo Gasser's request for a clearance to support her application for a business permit.

I would like to inform the public that Gasser wanted me to issue a barangay clearance for her business establishment in the name of another person. How could I possibly issue such a document when it was of public knowledge that she owned Mira Furniture with business address at Bonifacio Street, Barangay I, Vigan City which has been operating since 1995? I knew from the start that this was just a tactic to avoid paying taxes due the city government. This is the reason my office never issued the barangay clearance which Gasser requested.—**HENRY FORMOSO, barangay captain, Barangay I, Vigan City**



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Gov't TV withholds payment of services

MIA Aquino Concio, chair of PTV-4, took a swipe at the Transpacific Broadcast Group International Inc. (TBGI) in an interview in the INQUIRER's Metro section published last Jan. 20, 2002.

TBGI carried the satellite uplink of PTV-4 from December 2000 to June 2001 without being paid except for an assignment of two cars, only one of which turned out to be true. PTV-4 owes TBGI close to $500,000 by the terms of their contract.

For someone who owes good money to another, the remarks of Concio are rather unkind. They are also grossly inaccurate. PTV-4 (renamed NBN by Concio's board) can start learning about dishing out accurate news by the negative example of Concio's tirade against TBGI.

Concio told your reporter that the fees being charged by TBGI for its services was 300 times more expensive than the rate of the Indonesian firm Satelindo, hence TBGI had to be dumped so that she could send PTV-4 back to Satelindo.

If what she said is true, then PTV-4 should be paying Satelindo only the amount of $100 each month, which is what you get after dividing $30,000 (our contract rate) by 300. The thinking of Concio is completely out of whack. It's as if she just had to say something in derogation of TBGI just to avoid the topic of her refusal to pay TBGI.

So that the public may know, TBGI had no privity with the relationship of PTV-4 and Satelindo. The contract of TBGI was approved by the PTV-4 board. The government corporal counsel reviewed and vetted it. Competing offers were received, none of which offered terms as low as TBGI's offer.

Concio had an attack of solicitousness for the feelings of the foreign firm Satelindo and then went out of her way to appease it, according to her. Thus, TBGI had to be cut down in the middle of its contract even as PTV-4 under Concio could not cite one complaint about TBGI's service or even its contract terms. In fact, we heard these accusations only after PTV-4 had run up a six-month tab and was caught making for the door, its pockets hanging inside-out.

And what about TBGI which sustained its support for PTV-4 for months on end without getting paid? PTV-4, a government company, obviously cares more about the feelings of foreigners than its obligation to its own citizens, or the injury it inflicts to locals.—**PAUL B. SARIA, vice president, Transpacific Broadcast Group International Inc., 9th Floor Summit One Tower, 530 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City**

Real reason for our economic malaise

WESTERN commentators, parroted by many Filipino economists and institutions, like the Foundation for Economic Freedom, regularly state that the Philippine economy has failed to take off because of corruption. Through this slander of the Filipino people, they seek to hide the true reasons for our long-standing economic malaise, namely, the wrong economic policies adopted by our government.

If corruption were a major factor in economic development, then the United States would still be in the horse-and-buggy stage of development. After all, the United States is also a big den of corruption.

The bankruptcy of Enron, which was described by the Asian Wall Street Journal as "one of the biggest financial scandals in (US) history," once more proves that the United States is mired in corruption. The Enron executives swindled their own employees of their pensions and their stockholders of their investments while contributing nearly $6 million to politicians, most of it to Republicans. Enron reportedly gave $736,800 to President Bush's gubernatorial and presidential campaigns. Subsequently, US officials turned a blind eye to Enron's financial skullduggery.

The US government, through its ambassadors, served as a sales agent for Enron in its various enterprises abroad, such as the Dabhol power project in India. US Ambassador to India Frank Wisner strongly lobbied Indian officials to approve the Dabhol project, which was eventually rejected by officials of the Maharashtra state where the project was located, because its electricity was "too expensive." The Indian officials also accused Enron of "corruption," including bribery of local officials.

This recalls the case of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant that was built by Westinghouse, another well-known American multinational, during martial law. Westinghouse reportedly bribed a Marcos crony, Herminio Desini, by giving him a 5 percent commission, estimated at between $20 and $80 million, enabling it to get the contract despite a better offer from another firm. During the construction of two 620-megawatt plants, the price ballooned from the original contract price of $500 million to more than $2 billion. The plants remain unused because they have allegedly been built on an earthquake-prone zone. Although the project was marred by fraud, and ended up a flop, succeeding administrations continued to honor the contract, paying $300,000 in interests and amortization per day to Westinghouse.

The same Westinghouse was earlier implicated in a bribery scandal involving former Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka.

Are these instances of US corporate and official corruption isolated? A book, "In the Name of Profit: Profiles in Corporate Irresponsibility," documents the "misdeeds" in connivance with US officials of several prestigious US corporations such as Goodrich (implicated recently in the sale of defective tires), General Motors, Richardson-Merrell Inc. (a drug company) and others. Robert L. Heilbroner, a respected economist and sociologist, compared these misdeeds to "atrocities" such as the massacre of Vietnamese at My Lai. "In one case or the other," wrote Heilbroner, "the atrocities are not merely hideous exceptions, but, rather, discovered cases as a continuing pattern of behavior." William Pfaff, an American journalist, wrote: "Enron simply provides another demonstration of the role of corporate money in the American system. It is the system that is rotten."

Corruption is therefore not a key factor in economic growth, as shown by the experience of the United States, Japan, England and Europe where corruption is also rampant. As long as humans are human, there will be corruption. Indeed, it can be considered as a means for capital formation, if the money remains in the country where graft happens and is invested in economic enterprise.

Mainly, the economic success of nations comes from the correct economic policies adopted by their governments over many decades. If you study their histories, you will find that protectionism was the decisive factor in their economic advancement.

We can achieve the same success by following their examples, instead of relying on theories propagated by foreign experts who actually serve their own national and employers' interests. But I would not advise that we keep slaves or swindle our own people.—**MANUEL F. ALMARIO, Project 6, Quezon City**

The WORLD
Luvern B. Gueco, Editor

Iran, Iraq, North Korea slam Bush accusations

LONDON—Iran, Iraq and North Korea on Wednesday rejected an accusation by US President George W. Bush that they form an "axis of evil" developing weapons of mass destruction to threaten America and the world.

Iran said Bush's remarks smacked of a desire for hegemony, Iraq suggested they presaged a US attack on Baghdad and North Korea saw them as evidence of a "policy of aggression."

Britain said the US president had made a "powerful case for the coalition's actions against global terrorism."

France questioned the merits of labeling nations as terrorist.

In his first State of the Union speech, Bush vowed on Tuesday to prevent "terrorists and regimes who seek chemical, biological or nuclear weapons from threatening the United States and the world," and he singled out Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

"The world will not accept US hegemony," Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi retorted on Wednesday. "The American president had better back up his assertions with evidence instead of repeating old and unfounded claims . . .

The United States was Iran's chief ally until the 1979 Islamic revolution toppled the shah. The two countries broke ties in 1980 after revolutionaries seized the US embassy in Tehran and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

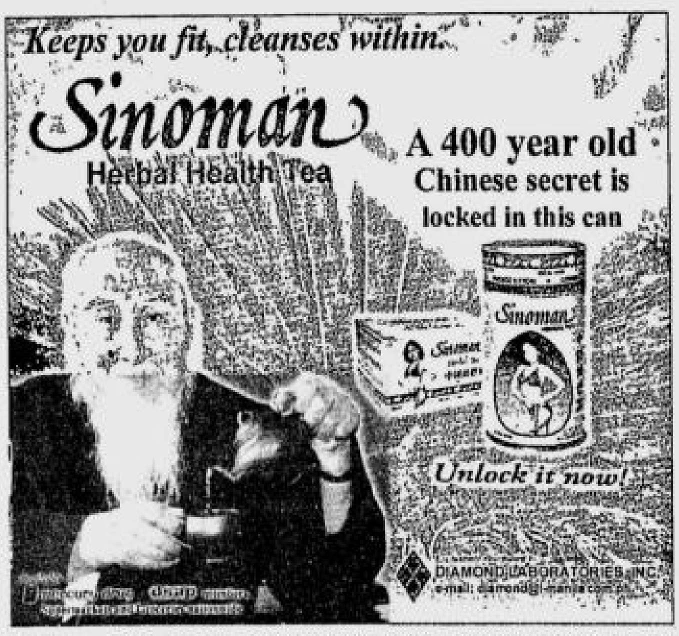
In Baghdad, a senior Iraqi parliamentarian said Bush was laying the groundwork for another US assault on Iraq, whose troops were driven from Kuwait in 1991 by a coalition led by his father, former president George Bush.

"Little Bush's accusation against Iraq is baseless," Salim al-Qubaisi, head of the Iraqi parliament's foreign and Arab relations committee, said.

"The American administration led by Bush has been threatening Iraq from time to time to prepare world public opinion for a new aggression against Iraq," said Qubaisi.

North Korea's official media scoffed at Bush for identifying the country as a threat.

"The US loudmouthed 'threat' from the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) is sophism intended to justify its military presence in South Korea and persistently pursue the policy of aggression against the DPRK," said a commentary carried by the north Asian state's official news agency. *Reuters*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Catholic Church offers $110M to Irish kids abused by clergy

DUBLIN—After years of denials and painful negotiations, the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland agreed late Wednesday to pay $110 million to Irish children who were sexually abused by priests, nuns and other church officials in decades past.

The landmark deal was designed to conclude a 10-year struggle by the church in this predominantly Catholic nation to weather a whirlwind of sexual scandals involving its clergy going back to the 1940s.

A stream of accusations against priests, brothers and nuns—more than 20 of whom have already been convicted of molesting children, with much of the abuse taking place in state-funded, church-run schools—have exposed both the government and church to potentially gargantuan legal bills from victims' lawsuits.

In exchange for church's financial commitment, the government agreed to indemnify the Church against further legal action by victims in Ireland.

"I think the religious orders have been extremely generous in the way that they have responded," said Bishop Eamonn Walsh of the Catholic Bishops' Child Protection Committee. "This is putting their money where their mouth is, and I think they should be congratulated. It must have put extreme strain on their resources."

But sex-abuse campaigners and opposition lawmakers branded the Church's offering inadequate. They said total claims by an estimated 3,000 victims to a new government-run compensation fund could exceed $350 million, so taxpayers would cover most of the tab.

The church's offer represented $32 million in cash, approximately $70 million in property to be donated to the state, and $8 million to fund counseling services for sex-abuse victims.

Crucially, any victim who accepts money from the fund must agree to drop legal action against the church or state.

"The church has gotten away very cheaply," said John Kelly, spokesperson for a lobbying group called Survivors of Child Abuse. "The taxpayer should not pick up the bill for abuse committed by members of the religious orders."

Education Minister Michael Woods, who oversaw negotiations with church authorities, said successive governments must share blame for allowing cases of individual or systematic sexual abuse in certain Catholic-run schools to go unpunished for decades. *AP*

FLOOD An Indonesian father passes his daughter down to rescue workers as flood water rises in parts of Jakarta Jan. 31. Bad flooding has hit various Indonesian cities, including the capital Jakarta, killing at least 33 people in the last three days, officials and local media reported.

REUTERS

Kidnappers threaten to kill US reporter within 24 hours

NEW YORK—The United States late Wednesday re-issued a travel warning for Pakistan as fears grew over the fate of kidnapped Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, whose captors threatened in an e-mail message to kill him within 24 hours.

Pearl's wife, Marianne, said she was not desperate about her husband's plight despite the latest e-mail, received by various western and Pakistani news agencies, that said other American journalists in Pakistan could be targeted.

"I haven't slept for six days but I have hope," Marianne Pearl told CNN from Karachi. "I'm not desperate because if I stop believing in creating this dialogue then I stop believing in everything else. I can't do that."

The e-mail accused Pearl, 38, of working for the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad, according to a report in the Journal, which vigorously denied Pearl was an intelligence operative for any nation.

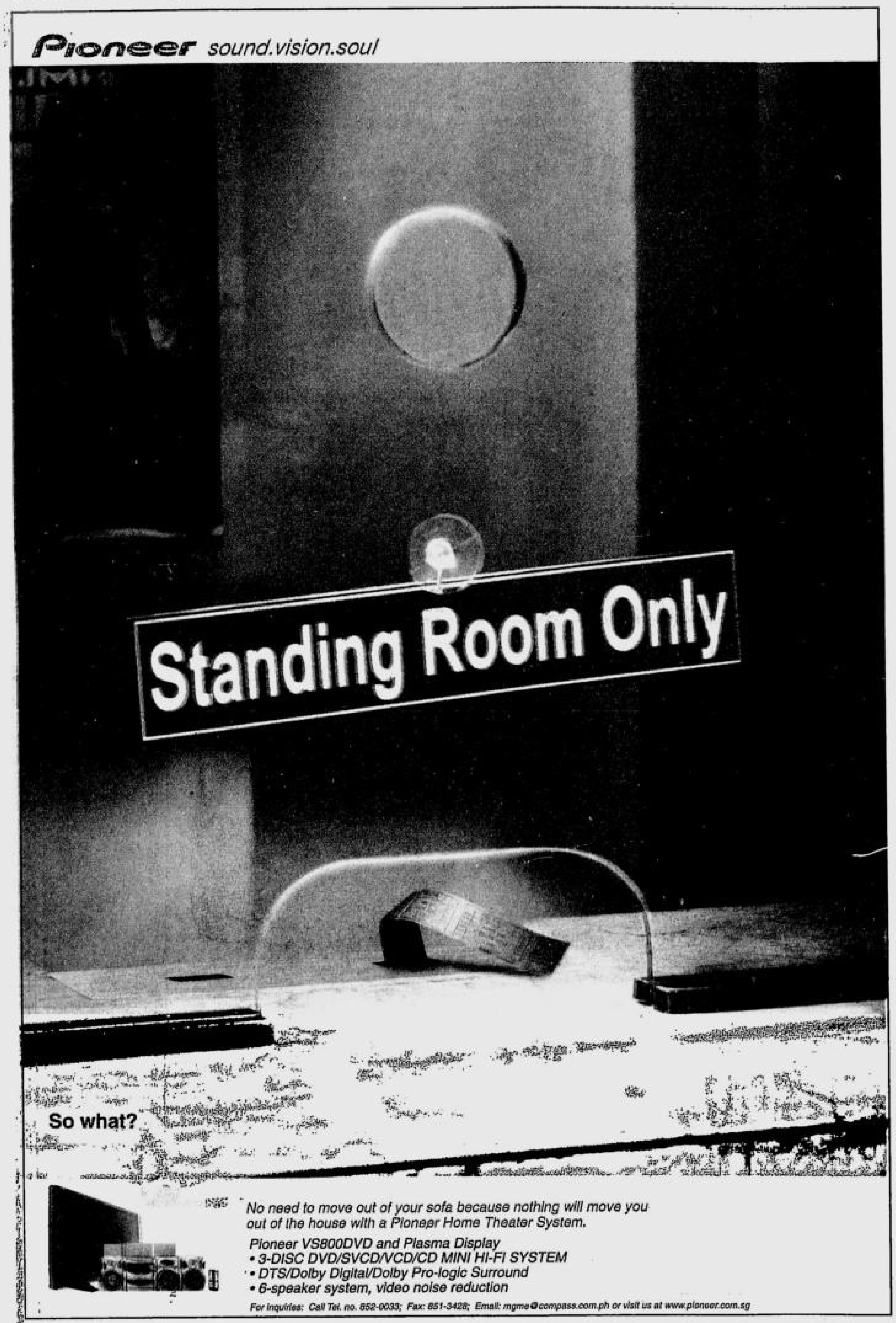
In a previous electronic message, Pearl was accused of working for the CIA, a charge the US intelligence agency also denied publicly.

Each e-mail has been accompanied by pictures of Pearl in captivity, some showing him hunched over, his hands in chains, others with a gun pointed at his head.

"We have seen the latest communication from the people claiming to hold Danny Pearl," the Journal's statement said. "Mr. Pearl, a US citizen born in the US, and a working journalist all of his adult life, is not an agent of any government or agency.

"He is a reporter for us—nothing more, nothing less."

Despite having eased its cautions for Americans seeking to travel to Pakistan two days prior, Washington on Wednesday again issued a travel warning for the central Asian nation. *AFP*



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India tests missile anew

NEW DELHI—India carried out its second missile test in less than a week on Wednesday and said Pakistan-based militants were still sneaking into the part of Kashmir India controls.

With the South Asia foes locked in a military stand-off along their border and exchanging fire almost daily, the test of the short-range Trishul missile, named after a trident carried by the Hindu god of destruction, was set to keep tensions simmering.

Last Friday, India tested a new version of its nuclear-capable Agni missile, drawing criticism from Pakistan which said the test threatened regional stability.

No pullback

India said it had no immediate plans to scale back its military deployment on its border and a Pakistani minister was quoted as saying Pakistan could not rule out the use of nuclear weapons if attacked by India.

The nuclear powers have massed a million men along the border from Kashmir down to the Arabian Sea, and India says it will not pull its soldiers back until Pakistan fulfils a pledge to stop rebel incursions. New Delhi is also demanding that Pakistan hand over 20 alleged criminals and terrorists.

India's defense ministry said the naval version of the short-range surface-to-air Trishul missile had been tested on Monday and Tuesday. The missile can carry a warhead of 15 kg up to a range of 50 km.

The Indian foreign ministry said there was little change on the ground in the disputed Kashmir region at the center of the standoff after India said its forces killed five guerrillas on Wednesday infiltrating the part controlled by India.

Terrorists

"It vindicates our continuing concern and the need for concrete and tangible action by Pakistan against terrorists groups and those individuals who have directed terrorism at India," spokesperson Nirupama Rao said.

In London, Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh said it was too soon for his country to judge the extent of Pakistan's moves against the militants.

Speaking after attending Commonwealth anti-terror talks, Singh said India was waiting to see how far Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf would implement a pledge to crack down on groups suspected of violence against India.

"We will of necessity judge by how it translates itself into action on the ground," Singh told a news conference.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee reaffirmed that India had no plans to scale back its huge military deployment. "There is no such proposal at this juncture," he said. *Reuters*

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GLX Gas M/T	645,000	100,000	25,770	18,424
Diesel M/T	670,000	100,000	26,769	19,138
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	100,000	28,167	20,138
Gas A/T	740,000	100,000	29,565	21,138
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	100,000	28,766	20,566
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	134,000	30,764	21,994
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	130,000	29,965	21,423
Gas A/T	790,000	138,000	31,563	22,566

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GLX Gas M/T	645,000	322,500	27,852	10,949	7,765
Diesel M/T	670,000	335,000	*27,917	11,373	8,066
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	352,500	30,442	11,967	8,487
Gas A/T	740,000	370,000	31,954	12,561	8,908
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	360,000	31,090	12,222	8,668
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	385,000	*32,083	13,071	9,270
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Enron probers to sue W. House

A DISPLAY named "Not a Shred of Evidence" in tribute to Enron employees inside one of the Enron buildings in Texas. AFP

WASHINGTON/AMITYVILLE, N.Y.—Congressional investigators said on Wednesday they would take unprecedented court action to try to find out what role Enron Corp. and others played in developing the White House's energy plan, as the fallout mounted from the energy giant's spectacular failure.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported on Wednesday that former Enron Chair Kenneth Lay handed US Vice President Dick Cheney a memo last year that included suggestions resembling elements of the Bush administration's energy policy.

The Houston-based company's bankruptcy on Dec. 2 came after allegations of insider trading and financial skullduggery destroyed investor confidence, threw thousands out of work and wiped out many workers' retirement savings.

Setting up a confrontation with the White Hose, the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of the US Congress, told congressional leaders on Wednesday it would sue the White House to get details of how a task force headed by Vice President Dick Cheney formulated its energy plan.

"GAO will take the steps necessary to file suit in US District Court in order to obtain . . . the information," GAO Comptroller General David Walker said in a letter to congressional leaders published on the agency's website.

The GAO did not say when it would file its suit.

The White House has refused to hand over the records, saying the disclosure would encroach on its ability to get candid advice from outside experts.

Among documents being sought are records that critics say could show the role played by Enron in crafting an energy plan favorable to its interests.

Representatives from Enron, which has made about $623,000 in contributions to Bush's campaigns since 1993, met six times last year with Cheney or staff involved in developing the energy plan. The last contact was in October, days before Enron announced a charge that contributed to its spectacular unraveling. ***Reuters***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, February 1, 2002
3rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **2 S 11:1-4, 5-10, 13-17**
Gospel: **Mk 4:26-34**

Jesus said, "In the kingdom of God it is like this. A man scatters seed upon the soil. Whether he is asleep or awake, be it day or night, the seed sprouts and grows, he knows not how. The soil produces of itself; first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when it is ripe for harvesting they take the sickle for the cutting: the time for harvest has come."

Jesus also said, "What is the kingdom of God like? To what shall we compare it? It is like a mustard seed which, when sown, is the smallest of all the seeds scattered upon the soil. But once sown, it grows up and becomes the largest of the plants in the garden and even grows branches so big that the birds of the air can take shelter in its shade."

Jesus used many such stories or parables, to proclaim the word to them in a way they would be able to understand. He would not teach them without parables; but privately to his disciples he explained everything.

Commentary

We have a better world now. Change and transformation may not take place as fast as we want. The Reign of God is taking its time but is in constant progress. With or without us, sometimes even in spite of us, the growth of justice, peace, truth, love is becoming obvious. The two parables teach us that growth of the Reign doesn't depend on us or is constricted to our evaluation and statistics. Its interior strength is stronger than any obstacle. God is in control and always will be; this is the foundation of our radical optimism in history. Small and simple, like the mustard seed, but driven by its own internal dynamism, this Reign of God, made up of people of good will with faith, courage and dedication, can offer security and sense of direction to all.

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Lagos blast death toll passes 700

LAGOS—The Nigerian government on Wednesday launched a disaster appeal for victims of a stampede caused by a munitions store explosion in Lagos as the death toll topped 700 and people started to count the cost.

President Olusegun Obasanjo, who canceled a planned weekend visit to New York, announced initial government donations of $2.6 million to a fund set up for those affected by the catastrophic explosion of an Army weapons store on Sunday and the deadly stampede that followed.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Pope John Paul II and the presidents of France and China on Tuesday all sent messages of condolence over the disaster.

On Wednesday, Obasanjo appealed to Nigerians and "our friends in the international community" to contribute to the Lagos Explosion Disaster Relief Fund, though little help was expected from abroad.

Obasanjo said the committee running the fund would be required to establish the identity of all the victims, determine the nature of the losses suffered, receive and administer contributions and submit a report to government. ***AFP***

CELEBRITY PHOTO REUTERS
A publicity handout of a Mario Testino portrait of Britain's Princess Diana, Jan. 30. The portrait features in a major exhibition of Peruvian fashion photographer Testino's celebrity photographs which opened at London's National Portrait Gallery on Wednesday.

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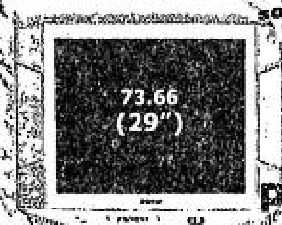

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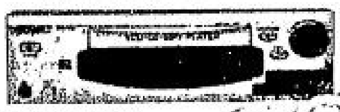

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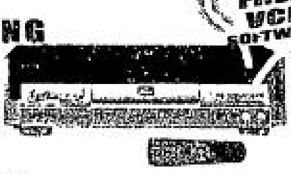

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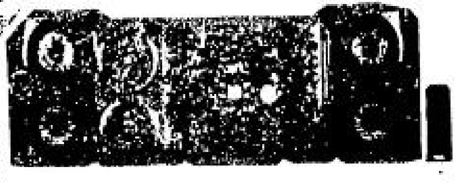

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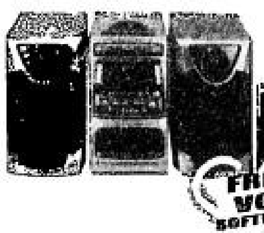

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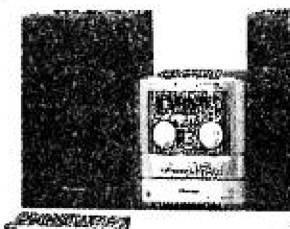

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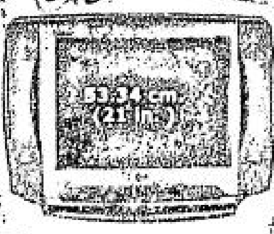

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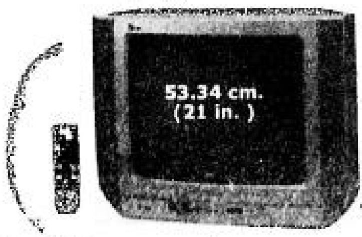

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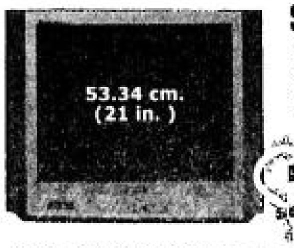

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RP-US WAR GAMES

Toxics spread in South feared

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

US military personnel unload equipment from a C-130 plane at the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City. CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The highly toxic and radioactive anti-tank weapon, depleted uranium (DU), would most likely be used by the United States military during the Balikatan 02-1 in Mindanao, the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup warned.

The task force aired this warning amid what it called "secrecy" on what the US forces really brought in for the exercises involving 660 soldiers in Basilan and Zamboanga City. The war exercises started Thursday.

"There is no guarantee that DU will not be used," Myrla Baldonado, PTFBC executive director, said in a statement sent by electronic mail to the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

The DU is actually a bullet that, when ignited, forms fine particles of radioactive dust, she said.

She noted that if inhaled or swallowed, the DU could lead to cancers that may affect the lungs, kidney and liver. It also causes congenital abnormalities or genetic damage.

The use of the DU, according to Baldonado, was "very possible" because the weapon was widely used during the Gulf War.

It has been also used as a training weapon in Okinawa in Japan and Vieques in Puerto Rico.

Baldonado said the US Special Forces more likely tested these in Subic in Zambales, which, like Clark in Pampanga, is considered by the PTFBC a toxic-contaminated military base.

Since 1995, the group has monitored nearly 150 deaths, mostly among children living at the borders of the bases from ailments believed linked to exposures to toxic wastes.

Citing more information from the US-based research and advocacy group Military Toxics Project (MTP), Baldonado said the DU was blamed for the birth of several babies with no heads and with abnormally large heads and short limbs. Many others have various types of birth deformities.

But with or without the DU, Baldonado said even practice ammunition, like bullets, bombs, shells, missiles and grenades, also posed "grave threats" to the health of residents, to the environment and even to Filipino and American soldiers engaged in the Balikatan exercise.

"Whether it's for joint training, combat or a prelude to basing, these ammunition have immediate and long-term impacts, especially on the children," she warned.

The MTP said practice ammunition "contain or utilize smoke cartridges, fuses, primers, igniter charges, propellants, incendiary components, and/or tracers—all of which may contain hazardous components."

The MTP has listed 25 potential hazardous chemicals contained in practice ammunition.

It said the chemicals' health effects included anemia, blurred vision, swelling, itching, pain, infertility in males and females, central nervous system disorder, impaired male productive function, personality behavioral changes and induced formation of tumors.

"The arsenal and sophisticated weapons of the US are actually a poisonous venom on the Filipino people," Baldonado said.

She also scored the American military for its "double standard," saying that in the US, the military is asked to present first a study of an area before it is allowed to use it as a training ground.

The Philippine government, she lamented, has also allowed more exercises, and this time with bigger contingent, without holding environmental impact studies on areas where the training exercises are held since 1990 when the Visiting Forces Agreement was ratified by the Senate.

"If the Philippine government would not hear of the sovereignty issue or finds it all too abstract to understand, can it at least defend the lives of the residents, their health and their environment against this toxic monster that is the war games?" Baldonado asked.

Central Luzon militants revive anti-US group

By Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Militant organizations in Pampanga and nearby provinces have vowed to intensify their opposition to the presence of US military personnel in the country by reviving the Central Luzon Alliance for Sovereign Philippines (Clasp).

The alliance, which actively campaigned against the US military's occupation of the former Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base more than a decade ago, used to be led by former Constitutional Commissioner Jose Suarez.

Frank Mangulabnan, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Pampanga, said Clasp would be formally revived in Angeles City on Saturday. The re-launching of the group will be followed by a protest rally.

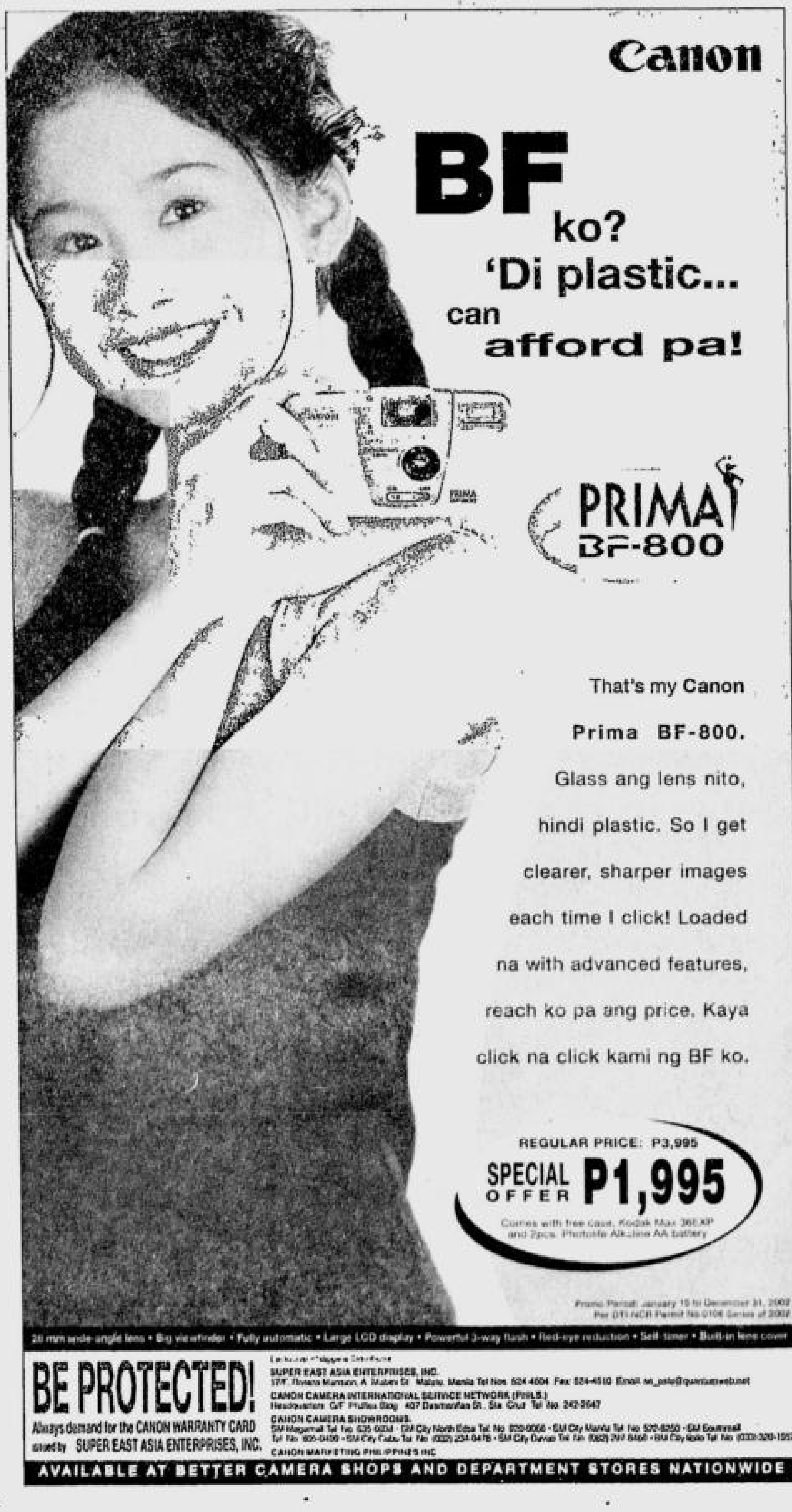
Mangulabnan said militant organizations in Central Luzon could not simply close their eyes "on what seems to be violation of the country's sovereignty by the US government."

He dismissed the idea that the Armed Forces of the Philippines is in dire need of US military assistance in fighting the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao.

"This is not true. Our own soldiers can handle the Abu Sayyaf. We do not need the Americans to fight the Abu Sayyaf, which has only about 120 members," he said.

Through Clasp, militant organizations and concerned citizens in Central Luzon would stage rallies and other forms of protest actions against the US military personnel's presence in the country, Mangulabnan said.

"We will not stop our protest actions until the Macapagal government decides to uphold the country's sovereignty," he said.



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Naga youths hold protest concert vs war exercises

NAGA CITY—Some 200 members of militant student and youth organizations held a concert at the Plaza Rizal here to protest the Balikatan military exercises that began yesterday in Zamboanga.

Featuring songs that denounced militarism and US meddling in the country's internal affairs, the concert was also held to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the First Quarter Storm, a series of protests that rocked the Marcos dictatorship.

Jariz Vida, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Camarines Sur, said several mass actions have been planned to support the nationwide protest against alleged US intervention.

Vida claimed that the Balikatan exercises was part of a grand design of "US imperialism" to establish its military network in the Asia-Pacific region by continuously using the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center towers as pretext.

On Feb. 4, Bayan will hold a forum and a candle-lighting activity, he said.

Camarines Sur Rep. Sulpicio Roco Jr. (2nd District), a member of the Congress delegation that observed the Balikatan exercises, said his group was told that the American soldiers were only here to train Filipino soldiers on anti-terrorism tactics.

But Roco said the people should remain vigilant to monitor the activities of the Balikatan amid a situation that there are no definite "rules of engagement" being followed now after the Sept. 11 tragedy.

He argued that the Vietnam scenario was not applicable now because the "geopolitical" situation had already changed.

Roco said it was hard to speculate if the American soldiers are to engage in direct combat with the Abu Sayyaf bandits because the agreement that the Philippine government had signed stated that they are only here for training. ***Juan Escandor Jr., Southern Luzon Bureau***

Trekking suspended in Kanlaon, Mayon

ALL treks within the 4-kilometer permanent danger zone of the Mt. Kanlaon Volcano have been suspended following a warning from government volcanologists yesterday that sudden phreatic or stream-driven explosions may occur anytime.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology also warned that the Mayon Volcano remained off-limits to climbers even as it is returning to normal from its eruptive state.

In an advisory, Phivolcs said it was closely monitoring Kanlaon as its intensified activities could endanger surrounding communities.

At least one more temporary seismic station will be placed on the middle slope and two ground positioning satellite stations will be installed within the vicinity to determine ground movements, it said.

The agency, however, said the volcanic activity did not require any kind of evacuation, except for areas within the permanent danger zone.

It said it has monitored significant seismic activities since earthquake clusters occurred in January last year that could mean a reactivation of the volcano.

The Provincial Disaster Management Team has informed the mayors of Murcia, La Castellana and Moises Padilla towns and La Carlota and Bago cities of the Phivolcs warning.

Errol Gatumbato, superintendent of the Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park, said trekking to the permanent danger zone had been cancelled.

In Legazpi City, Ed Laguerta, Phivolcs resident volcanologist at the Lignon Hill said the upper slope of Mayon was still "very dangerously hot" for any human activity.

Meteoric liquid or rainwater quickly accumulates pressure and heats up to steam when it pours into the shallow and still-hot lava deposits on the upper slopes, he said.

Hundreds of tons of loose deposits from the volcano's eruptions last year remain hazardous to climbers and farmers tilling the slopes, particularly along the southeastern portion facing Legazpi and Sto. Domingo town in Albay, he said.

Laguerta said that after Mayon's eruption in June last year, the volcanic debris in some areas near the crater still registered temperatures exceeding 1,000 degrees Celsius. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau, and Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI31° Lo-21°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 22° Lo 12°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 18°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 27° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 19°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Loyesa, PDI Research/02/01/02

ROUNDUP

Girl dies in fire

BAGUIO CITY—A 10-year-old girl was killed after a fire razed an apartment in Green Valley subdivision here on Monday night. Fire investigators said the victim, Connie Vilegas, was left sleeping alone in the house when the fire struck at about 11:30 p.m. FO2 Pio Lacsamana of the city fire department said the fire was caused by an electrical circuit failure. ***Jovelyn Reyes, Northern Luzon Bureau***

Rapist pa gets death

SANTIAGO CITY—A man was sentenced to death by a judge court here for raping his daughter four times in January 2000. Judge Fe Albano Madrid of the regional trial court here also ordered the accused to pay the victim P200,000 in damages. ***Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Palawan town projects

BATARAZA, Palawan—Gov. Joel T. Reyes inaugurated a day-care center in Barangay Bono-bono and a spring development project in Barangay Bulalacao here. The provincial government funded both projects through the Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services program. Reyes, along with Palawan Electric Cooperative general manager Ponciano Payuyo and National Electrification Administration representatives, also launched the expansion of the P11-million electrification project from the Bataraza poblacion to Barangay Bono-Bono, benefiting some 500 households. The NEA pledged an additional P2 million in subsidy. *Ruelle Albert D. Castro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 killed in road mishap

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Two persons died and several other passengers were hurt when a jeepney fell into a deep excavation along the national highway in Barangay Tagburos here on Wednesday night. The vehicle, driven by one Bongbong Ramirez, came from Barangay Baong, Taytay town. Killed on the spot were: Anthony Mendoza, of Barangay Mangingisda, the jeepney helper and conductor, and Mike Mendoza, of Aborlan town, who sat on top of the vehicle. ***Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

'Liberated' village

LUCENA CITY—Army soldiers have "liberated" one more village in Oriental Mindoro from the influence of the communist New People's Army, Maj. Gen. Ernesto G. Carolina, head of the military's Southern Luzon Command chief, said Carolina reported that the number of NRA-influenced barangays in the province had dropped to 53 at the end of 2001. Oriental Mindoro ranked second after Quezon in terms of NPA troop strength and firepower, and number of influenced barangays. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Robbers kill passenger

DAVAO CITY—Three unidentified armed men robbed passengers of a bus in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, on Tuesday night and killed one of the victims for trying to resist. Killed was Eduardo Placide, an employee of the Bank of the Philippine Islands branch in Digos City. Police said the robbers boarded the Digos-bound Metro Shuttle Bus from this city and upon reaching Barangay Tuban, announced a holdup. After taking the passengers' valuables and the conductor's collection, the robbers got off in Barangay Bato. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Anti-polio campaign

ROSALES, Pangasinan—The Department of Health will conduct a door-to-door immunization campaign in Pangasinan to eliminate polio. Elinor Ganda of the DOH said Pangasinan was singled out because it had a higher population of children than each of the three provinces in the Ilocos region. Under the department's "Door-to-Door Patak" scheme, each rural health unit will have its own vaccination team that will administer oral polio vaccines to children below 5 years old. The vaccination campaign will be implemented on Feb. 2-8 and on March 2-8. ***Erwin dela Rosa, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Scholarship deadline

THE DEADLINE for the submission of applications to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources scholarship program for school year 2002-03 is on Feb. 14, not Feb. 23 as earlier reported. Applicants should be high school graduates and have not earned any units in college, or senior high school students in the current school year. They must also belong to the top 10 of their graduating class and should be interested in pursuing a BS Fisheries course. Application forms are available at the office of the provincial/city schools superintendents, or at the BFAR regional office at the BPI Compound on Guisad Road, Baguio City. ***PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Negros co-op execs told to quit

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—About 5,000 Negrenses gathered in front of the Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Ceneco) office here on Friday to call for the resignation of its board members for alleged mismanagement.

The Negros Consumers Watch, Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas, and the Negros Press Club, in coordination with several church and sectoral groups, led the consumers' protest.

The employees' union of Ceneco welcomed the picket because, according to their president Roy Cordova, it was consistent with their allegation that the electric firm is being mismanaged.

Cordova said they could not openly join the protest because they could be charged with constitute abandonment of work.

Responding to the consumers' demand, Fr. Francisco Silva, head of the National Electrification Administration, ordered a management and financial audit on Ceneco starting on Feb. 5.

He also appointed on Friday night Fr. Greg Patiño, Negros Consumers Watch chair, as additional member of the Ceneco, representing the NEA.

Silva also gave Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra authority to recommend people who are qualified to hold the position of assistant general manager and a certified public accountant who will be hired as assistant chief of the internal audit group of Ceneco.

The presence of Patiño and the two recommendees of Navarra in the board and management of Ceneco will ensure transparency and access to information, Silva added.

Patiño, however, refused to say if he would accept the position. He said he still had to talk with Silva, who is his mentor in the seminary in Cebu City.

Silva said Ceneco's financial audit must be handled by people "who cannot be influenced" and must be conducted with absolute transparency but will not be hasty.

"While we will try to speed up the process, we will be careful not to miss on any damning evidence," Silva said. "If we will rush judgment on the case, it will also be unfair to the Ceneco board," he also said.

The House committee on energy is also set to investigate Ceneco's operation here on Feb. 13.

The inquiry was sought by Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Carlos Lacson (third district) who, in a privileged speech, said Ceneco "is profusely bleeding" due to inefficiency, incompetence and alleged graft that abound in the cooperative.

Lacson said that from an accumulated loss of P10 million in 1997, the figure rose to P40 million in 1998, P120 million in 1999, P268 million in 2000 and P360 million in 2001.

Impeach lawyer buried

ILOILO CITY—Hundreds of people on Wednesday buried with honors the lawyer of the opposition bloc in the House of Representatives who filed the historic impeachment complaint against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Friends, relatives, fellow lawyers and townmates of Ramon A. Gonzales attended the necrological services at the St. Joseph Parish Church in Pototan town, 34 kilometers northeast of here.

The number of mourners swelled when the funeral procession reached the Forest Lake Memorial Park in Mandurriao District where Gonzales was buried.

The casket was draped with the Philippine flag. A team of policemen honored the former delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention with a 21-gun salute.

National leaders, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and Agrarian Secretary Hernani Braganza, sent flowers and condolences to Gonzales' family.

The lawyer's remains arrived here on Jan. 23, six days after he died of lung cancer at his home in New Manila, Quezon City. He was 76.

He has a son and eight daughters with Lilia Yusay-Gonzales. They have 19 grandchildren.

Presidential Assistant for Western Visayas Rene Villa said Gonzales' death was "a big loss not only to the legal profession but (also) to the country." ***Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

Grenade explosion kills 3

LUCENA CITY—Three young children of a farmer in remote Barangay Quipot, San Juan, Batangas, were killed when a hand grenade accidentally exploded on Wedneday.

Killed on the spot were Janeth, 11, and her brothers Allan, 9, and Anthony, 4—all surnamed Marasigan.

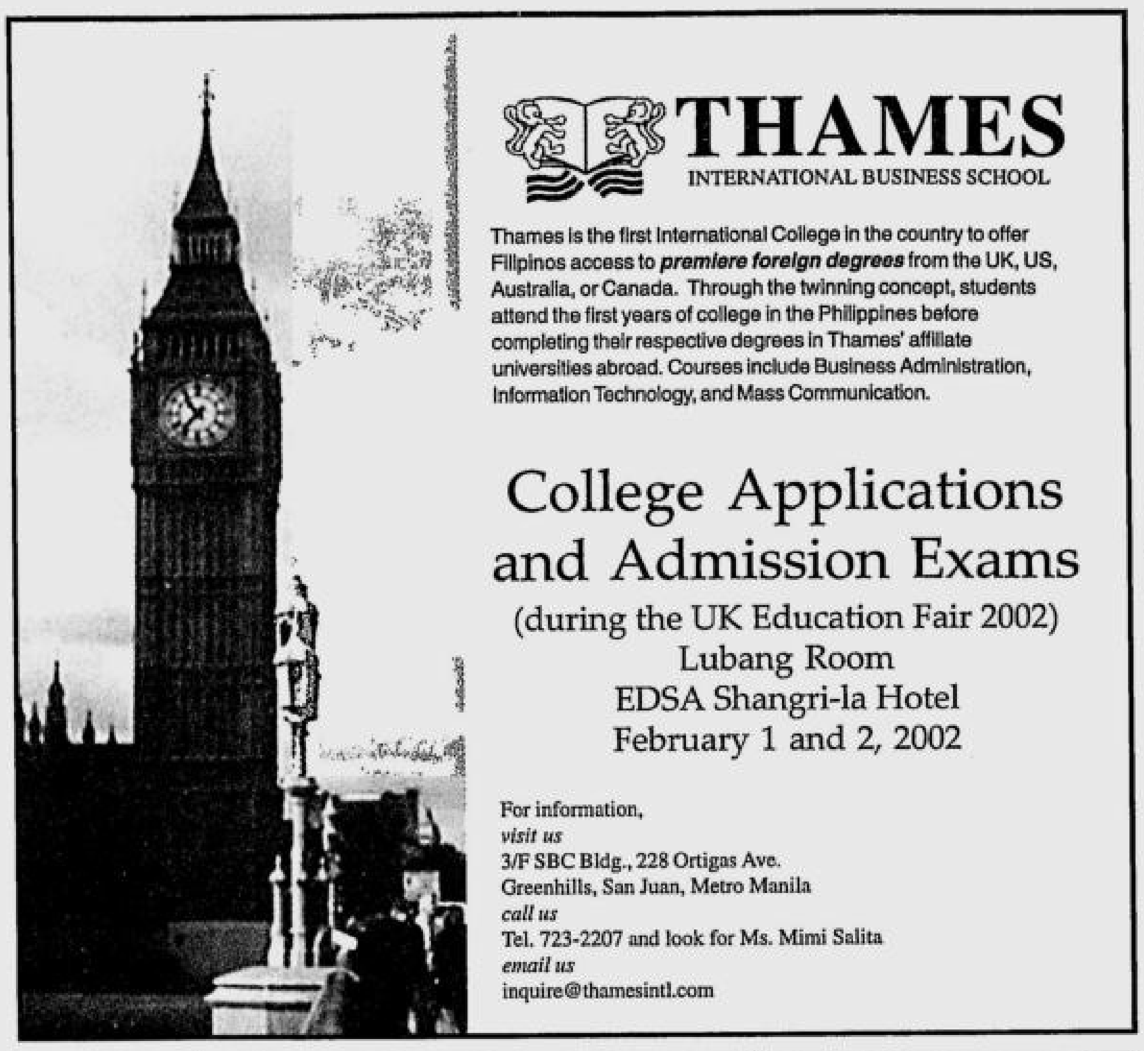
Seriously injured was Walter, 2, who was brought to the Batangas Provincial Hospital in critical condition.

Police said the victims had multiple shrapnel wounds in different parts of the body.

A police report said the children were playing with a rusty "*atis*-type" hand grenade in front of their house when one of them accidentally removed the pin, causing it to explode.

The report said there was nobody else at home, except for the children.

The father of the victims, Angelito, was tending his farm when the accident occurred. His wife was reportedly in Cavite and was expected to arrive that day. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



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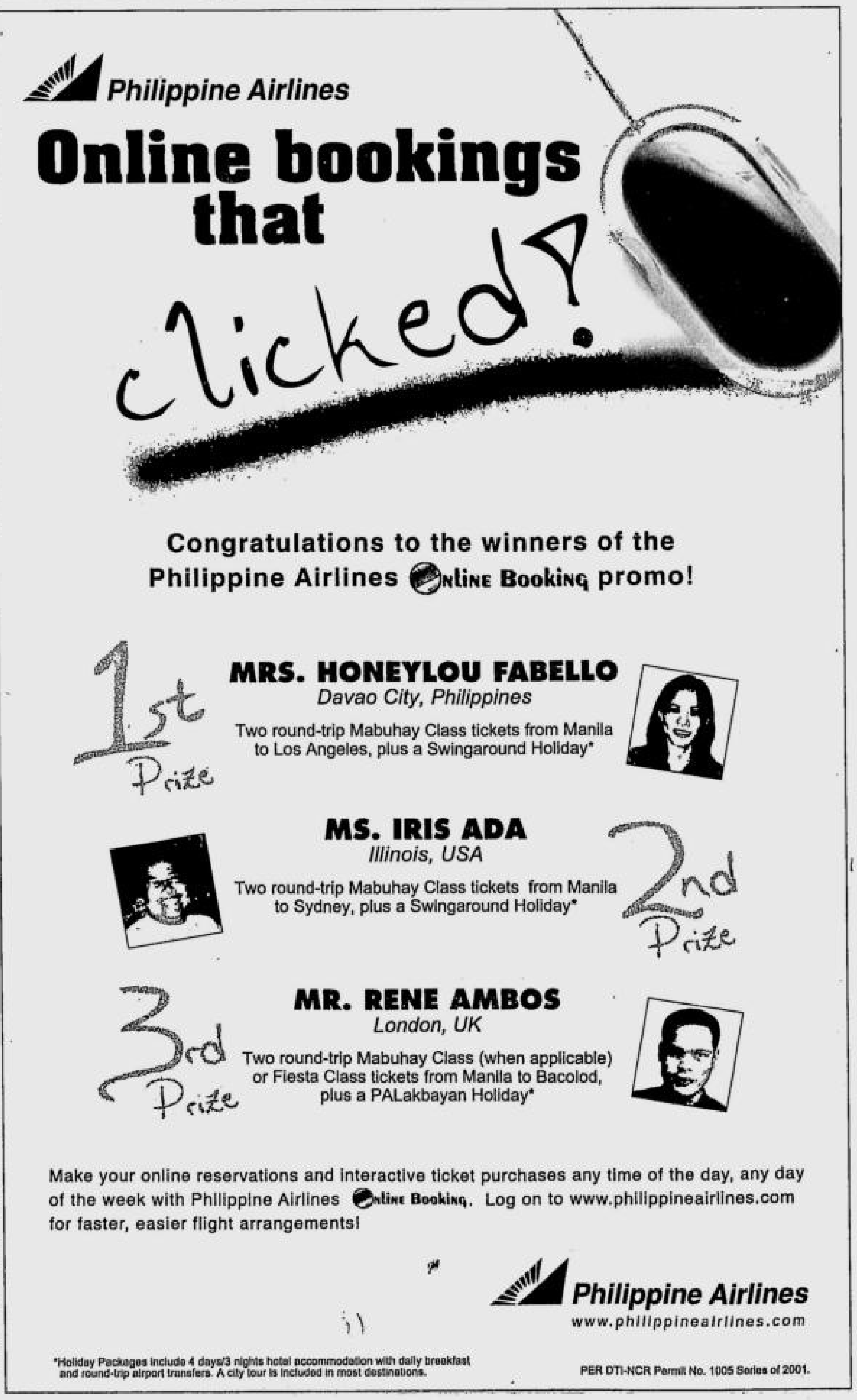

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-050, Series of 2002

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Soldiers arrest aide of Pentagon gang head

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Members of the 601st Army Brigade's Special Task Group GenSan on Thursday morning arrested a suspected leader of the Pentagon kidnap gang.

Col. Pedrito Magsino, brigade chief, identified the suspect as Mario Masalon, alias Commander Aguila/Malta, whose group was reportedly operating in the South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsargen) area and parts of Davao del Sur.

Masalon, who is reportedly the most trusted man of Pentagon gang leader Tahir Alonto, was arrested in Litanville in Barangay Apopong here.

Magsino said the suspect was hit and wounded in the right leg after he was shot by one of the members of the raiding team while trying to escape. He was brought to one of the hospitals here.

Magsino said the operation was launched after a civilian agent tipped off the task force that Masalon had been hiding in Litanville.

The suspect's son, identified as a certain Ricky, escaped during the raid.

Masalon has a pending warrant of arrest in connection with the kidnapping and robbery charges filed against him in court. His son was also named in the warrant.

Masalon was one of the principal suspects in the kidnapping of the Cavalida brothers in 1999. His name was also implicated in two kidnappings last year.

As this developed, Malacañang has started conducting its own investigation into the alleged links of Supt. Willie Dangane, chief of the Central Mindanao police's Sanglahi-Pentagon Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, to the kidnap gang.

On Monday, Palace investigators arrived here and met with Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, regional police chief.

Baluyot told reporters that a background check was being conducted on Dangane, who has been tagged as one of the alleged protectors of the Pentagon group.

Baluyot, however, refused to divulge details of the meeting.

Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, deputy chief of the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, arrived here Tuesday and started getting statements from police officers and witnesses in connection with the charges leveled against Dangane.

Calderon, who was once assigned here as a junior officer, said his actions were part of the investigation being conducted by the PNP hierarchy.

He failed to get statements from Dangane, who was still reportedly in Lanao taking part in operations to rescue kidnapped Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni.

Dangane has denied the accusation, claiming it was aimed at destroying his image and credibility.

He refused to be interviewed further, saying his legal counsel will answer the charges in court.

PRO-MISUARI RALLY BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

An elderly woman raises a poster of jailed Moro rebel leader Nur Misuari during a rally in Davao City last week. The rally was part of a series of protests staged by Misuari loyalists in Mindanao to demand the release of their leader.

Boy outwits kidnappers in Cotabato City

COTABATO CITY—A scion of a wealthy Chinese-Filipino family here outwitted his would-be abductors on Monday, the military reported.

Col. Essel Soriano, chief of the anti-kidnapping Task Force Sagittarius, said the boy, a Grade 3 pupil, was loitering near the parking lot of the Cotabato City Institute during recess at 3 p.m. when a man approached him.

Soriano said the man pretended that he was sent by the boy's father to fetch him "because of an emergency situation and that the car was waiting outside."

"The kid sensed something wrong. The man was not the one fetching him everyday," Soriano told local radio dxMS.

Slowly, the boy stepped back and ran toward the school's security guard, who alerted soldiers manning a checkpoint nearby.

"This made the suspect to flee, board a car and speed away," Soriano said.

He said the task force was now looking out for several vehicles and license plates that kidnappers were using in conducting surveillance on their targets.

In another development, the Cotabato City Medical Society yesterday reopened their outpatient departments but said they would continue their condemnation of all forms of violence.

Earlier, the physicians refused to treat non-emergency case after armed men, suspected to be members of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group, snatched Dr. Rosemarie Agustin.

Agustin, owner of one of the biggest hospitals here, was snatched on Jan. 15.

Efforts to rescue her have yet to succeed. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Kidnappers should remain in jail, says PNP chief

SAN FERNANDO CITY—If Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, would have his way, he would want the 230 kidnappers arrested by the police last year to remain in jail "to prevent them from intimidating people again."

Said to be the biggest haul in the history of kidnap-for-ransom arrests, these kidnappers should not be allowed to post bail, he said.

Mendoza was here on Wednesday as guest during the 11th PNP anniversary celebration at Camp Oscar Florendo.

"The criminal justice system must not allow intervention from any foreign government," Mendoza said, alluding to the Jacky Rowena Tiu kidnapping case where Chinese suspects were involved.

He said the police would do everything for Tiu, saying they would bring to "ultimate justice" all her abductors.

Tiu, whose family owns several business establishments here, was abducted in Barangay Lingsat on Sept. 27 last year.

She was released by her kidnappers on Oct. 4 after her parents paid P10 million. The ransom money, however, was later recovered after her kidnappers were arrested in Cavite and Pasay City.

But two of the seven suspects—Zhang Xiwang, 20, and Zhang Du, 25—were later released through the intervention of Chinese Consul General Zhu Tao Ying.

The two suspects jumped bail and reportedly left the country.

During the PNP anniversary here, Mendoza commended Supt. Dominador Aquino Jr., San Fernando City police chief, for heading the "Task Force Jacky" that resulted in the speedy solution of the Tiu kidnapping, the first in the province.

Also cited was Supt. Wilmer Panabang, who was acting La Union police director at the time Tiu was kidnapped and rescued. ***Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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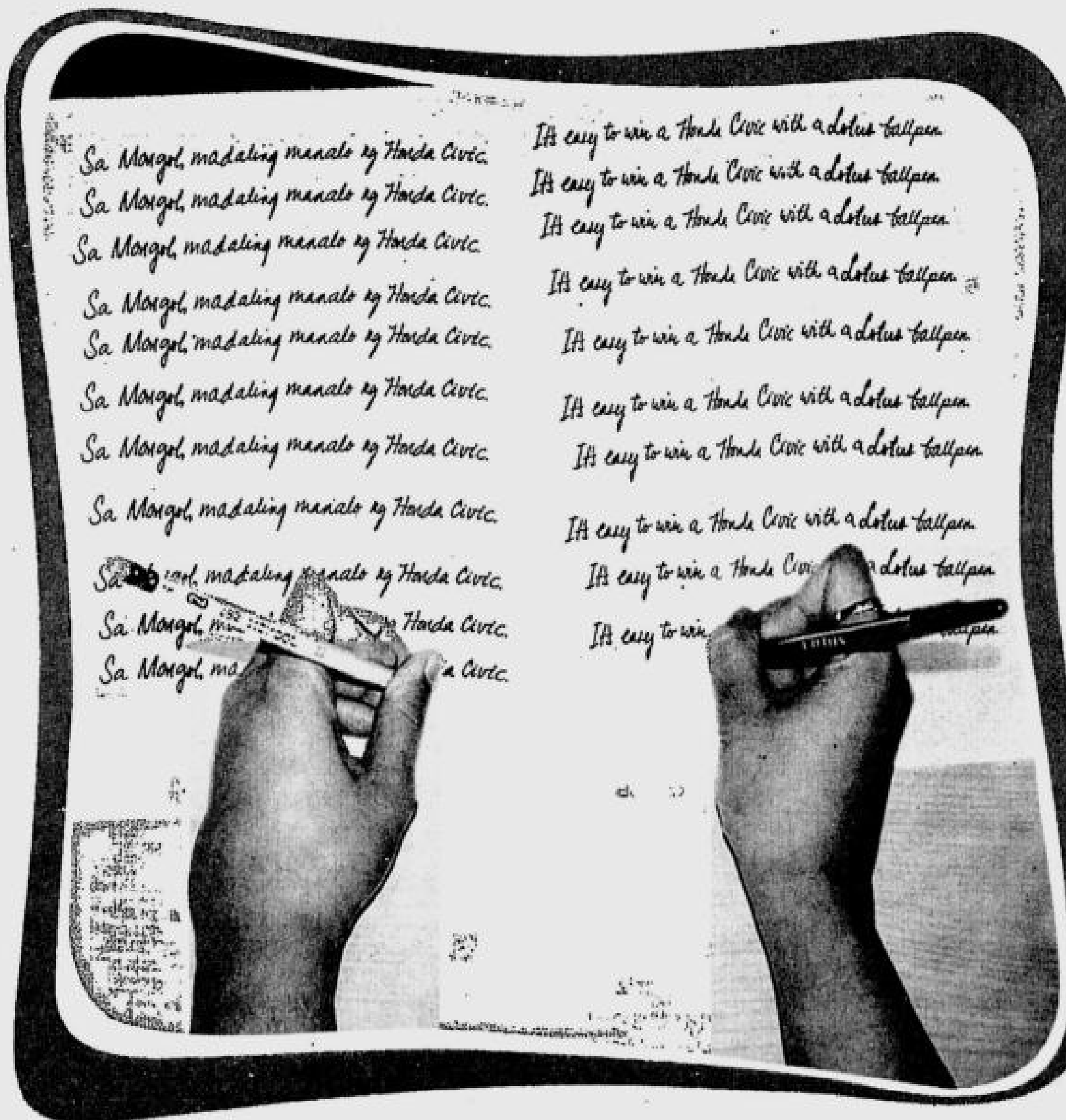
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1476 Series of 2001

PIATCO Gravely Violated Our Most Important Laws. PIATCO Should Not Be Allowed to Get Away with It!

How?

1 PIATCO WAS GIVEN AN AIRPORT MONOPOLY

The Constitution Is Clear and Unequivocal:

Article XII, Section 19 declares: *"The State shall regulate or prohibit monopolies when the public interest so requires…"*

The PIATCO Contract Is Unconstitutional:

Section 3.01 (b) of the amended agreement says: "PIATCO is solely and exclusively responsible for the development, design, financing, construction and operation of NAIA Terminal 3 for … twenty five years (25) from the in-service date." The same shall be extended for another 25 years.

Section 3.02(a) of the same agreement states: "GRP undertakes and guarantees that PIATCO shall have the exclusive right to operate a commercial international passenger terminal within the Island of Luzon …" Section 3.02 (b) of the same agreement further says: "…GRP obligated itself to cause the closure of NAIA Passenger Terminals 1 and 2 as international passenger terminals."

2 THE PIATCO AGREEMENT CANCELS ALL EXISTING CONTRACTS

The Constitution Is Clear and Unequivocal:

The Constitution (Article III, Section 10) declares: *"No law impairing the obligation of contracts shall be passed."*

The PIATCO Contract Is Unconstitutional:

Section 3.01 (e) of the amended agreement states: "… GRP, through DOTC/MIAA, confirms that these (current concession agreements) services and operations shall not be carried over to the Terminal (NAIA 3) and that Concessionaire (PIATCO) is under no legal obligation to permit such carry-over …"

3 PIATCO IS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY FOREIGNERS

The Constitution Is Clear and Unequivocal:

The Constitution (Article XII, Section 11) declares: *"No franchise, certificate, or any other form of authorization for the operation of a public utility shall be granted except to citizens of the Philippines … The participation of foreign investors in the governing body of any public utility enterprise shall be limited to their proportionate share in its capital, and all the executive and managing officers of such corporation … must be citizens of the Philippines."*

The PIATCO Contract Is Unconstitutional:

PIATCO attempted to circumvent the 40 percent limit on foreign ownership of public utilities through a crafty "corporate layering" procedure – thus limiting Filipino equity in PIATCO to 42.02 percent. As such, PIATCO is not even qualified to enter into a build-operate-transfer arrangement for NAIA 3. This is based on records obtained from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This was also gleaned from a story that appeared in Germany's leading financial paper, *Handelsblatt*, which wrote about PIATCO's German partner – which ran: "Fraport in effect controls 70% of Piatco, the company set up by the Chengs, a local family of Chinese origin …"

4 RP GOVERNMENT ABDICATES AUTHORITY TO PIATCO

The Constitution Is Clear and Unequivocal:

A respected Constitutional principle, supported by established jurisprudence, prohibits *"absolute delegation and abdication of powers."*

The PIATCO Contract Is Unconstitutional:

Under Section 4.05 of the PIATCO amended agreement, PIATCO can lease any portion of NAIA 3 and can allow lessees to even sub-lease the premises *"without the need for the written approval of the GRP and/or DOTC/or MIAA in either case."*

In Section 5.09 of the amended agreement, the Government's exercise of its inherent police authority was expressly limited to mere "temporary take-overs," only in times of specified emergencies.

In Section 5.11, the government obligates itself unconditionally (!) to abide by the rules promulgated by PIATCO – **making government a subordinate of PIATCO.** The provision goes: *"PIATCO shall have the right to promulgate rules and regulations … and GRP undertakes that all concerned agencies shall abide by the rules and regulations pursuant to this section."*

MIAA was divested not only of its inherent power to provide international airlines and airport-related services, but also its powers to contract out such services!

5 PIATCO CAN INCREASE ITS FEES WITHOUT GOV'T CONSENT

Section 6.06 of the amended agreement grants PIATCO the authority to levy and collect dues … at its sole discretion and at any time *"without need for the consent of the GRP or any government agency."* PIATCO was made even more powerful than the MIAA and the DOTC! **Government would look helplessly even when PIATCO burdens us all with exorbitant fees!**

6 THE BOT LAW STATES CLEARLY: NO GOV'T GUARANTEE

The Law Is Clear and Unequivocal:

Republic Act 6957 **(Build-Operate-and-Transfer Law)** sets two conditions when an agency/LGU may accept unsolicited proposals on a negotiated basis – one of which is "no direct government guarantee, subsidy or equity is required; xxx."

The PIATCO Contract Is Patently Illegal:

In Section 4.04 (vi) of the amended agreement, **direct government guarantee is provided to PIATCO** by requiring GRP to assume the responsibility of repaying the debts incurred by PIATCO.

In Section 8.01 of the same agreement, **direct government subsidy is granted to PIATCO** by requiring GRP to postpone payments due it from PIATCO, if the latter cannot pay its senior lenders.

7 THE BOT LAW BROKEN AGAIN: NO NEDA OK ON AMENDMENTS

The Law Is Clear and Unequivocal:

Section 12.10 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the BOT Law state: "Where it is necessary that the contract/project has to be revised … then such a contract re-opener may be entertained subject to the clearance on a non-objection basis by the Investment Coordination Committee of the NEDA Board… In case the amendments in the contract involve an increase in the amount or a change in the form of government undertakings or ICC-prescribed parameters or contractual provisions, then such changes require ICC clearance… **Failure to secure ICC clearance shall render the revisions to the contract invalid."**

The PIATCO Contract Amendments Are Illegal and Invalid:

The amended and restated agreement was not reviewed by the Investment Coordination Committee of the NEDA Board – and was therefore not given ICC clearance. A law was violated and, without such clearance, as the rule says, the PIATCO contract is invalid.

PIATCO, face the facts.

You took advantage of the previous administration to make even more amendments that run counter to our Constitution and our laws.

We appeal to Her Excellency
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
to apply the full force of the law against PIATCO and its proponents.

If not, it will encourage other unscrupulous foreign companies, in collaboration with local partners, to casually violate our laws at the expense of the Filipino people.

MIAA-NAIA Association of Service Operators

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Surprising growths in Philippine GNP, GDP

From page A1

regional economist at MMS/S&P in Singapore.

Lotilla said the government also intended to stick to its budget deficit target this year of P130 billion, about 3.1 percent of GNP, because the GDP growth target "rests on continued macroeconomic stability."

"As the US economy recovers and the Eurozone economies strengthen . . . the prospects are bright that this GDP growth forecast will be realized," he said.

Sources of growth

Lotilla said the major sources of growth were agriculture, which accounts for 20 percent of the domestic economy, and services, which contributes 42 percent.

Agriculture, fishery, and forestry rose 3.9 percent in 2001 from 3.3 percent in 2000—thanks to good weather as well as the government's distribution of certified seeds and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities.

Services grew a robust 4.3 percent. Supporting the growth was the continued expansion in telecommunications (20.5 percent) and trade (5.6 percent).

Private services grew 4.4 percent on the strength of business services (7.9 percent), medical and health (5.6 percent), and personal services (4.6 percent).

Industry, hit hard by the retreat of the high technology sector and by the Sept. 11 attack, grew a mere 1.9 percent. Growth likewise decelerated in manufacturing (2.2 percent), and utilities (3.8 percent).

Revenues from electronics, accounting for about 60 percent of total exports, dropped 20.7 percent last November.

The manufacturing sector was particularly weak in the fourth quarter, with output expanding a mere 0.8 percent after 2.6 percent in the third quarter and 3.4 percent in the first.

Despite a tough economic environment, personal consumption expanded 3.4 percent in 2001, only slightly lower than the previous year's 3.5 percent growth.

Spending was boosted by higher earnings for rural workers and the remittances of Filipinos working overseas.

Threats, opportunities

While many analysts agree the fourth-quarter performance was impressive, some say the economy is not yet out of the woods.

The impact on agriculture production from an expected El Niño weather phenomenon is a particular point of concern. El Niño caused a drought that devastated harvests in 1998.

Emilio Neri, an economist with Abacus Securities Inc., said he was not yet raising his growth forecast of around 3 percent for 2002. That projection is in line with the market's consensus.

The International Monetary Fund is projecting 3.2-percent growth this year, and the Asian Development Bank 3 percent.

But Lotilla said industry should recover as revived external demand and investor confidence boost manufacturing.

He cited the narrowing spread on eight-25 year Philippine sovereign bonds to about 465-535 basis points in January compared with about 600-800 basis points in October 2001.

GDP should grow by 4.1-4.6 percent in the three months to March, compared to 3.8 percent in the last three months of 2001, Neda's Gay Cororaton said.

ING Barings economist Chia Woon Khien said it was possible that the government might reach the full-year GDP target with low inflation supporting recovery in domestic consumption.

But she insisted that global demand had remained slack.

"The rest of the economy appears to be running pretty well. This gives us some assurance that in 2002, we can rely on the same strength in domestic demand," said Neri of Abacus Securities.

The Philippines has outperformed Singapore's GDP contraction of 2.2 percent in 2001, but its economic growth is below that of Indonesia which reported GDP growth of 3.5 percent after coming from a negative growth in previous years.

With the population growing by 2.12 percent to 80.08 million last year, however, per capita GDP in the Philippines increased by a mere 1.3 percent to P13,117 at constant 1985 prices, or P48,205 at current prices.

The government says four in 10 Filipinos live on less P40 a day. Experts say President Gloria Arroyo needs to generate sustained GDP growth of at least 8 percent annually over the next decade to make a dent on sprawling poverty. ***With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters***

RP-US war games start; 15 more coming . . .

From page A1

"By the authority vested in me as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines I now declare the . . . exercise open," Villanueva said while scores of US and Filipino soldiers stood at attention before him.

Senior officers from the two Pacific allies presided over the formal opening at the heavily guarded headquarters of the Southern Command in Zamboanga, near Basilan Island, where Abu Sayyaf bandits have been holding a US missionary couple and a Filipino nurse hostage for over eight months.

Drones

As part of the exercise, the Philippine Army will unveil today new weapons in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf, including unmanned surveillance planes, according to Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr.

Fitts said the exercises would "help eliminate the terrorist parasites who threaten Filipinos as well as the United States."

More than 100 US soldiers are already in Zamboanga. Some 500 more, including Special Forces, are to arrive in coming weeks for the mission to train Filipino soldiers fighting the Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Filipino officers said the US soldiers will mainly train the local troops on helicopter night flying and in other tactics involving sophisticated equipment.

But some Special Forces may accompany Filipino soldiers into combat zones and are authorized to shoot in self-defense.

Stay away

A retired Filipino general warned the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Moro National Liberation Front and the New People's Army to stay away from Basilan, Jolo and other sites of the joint military exercise to prevent an encounter with Filipino and American troops.

Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, belittled the NPA threat to attack American troops should they venture into its territory.

Ermita said the MILF had already agreed to declare a "ceasefire" and started pulling out its troops from Basilan.

"We advise the MILF, MNLF and NPAs that if they have forces in Basilan to stay away and not get involved in case the military troops are running after the Abu Sayyaf terrorists," he said.

He added that the Moro and communist rebels might think they were under attack upon the onset of shooting exercises.

Food not bombs

Just before the ceremonial opening got under way, about 30 people, chanting "Yankees, go home," burned the American flag in a rally at the gates of the military headquarters here.

They shouted "Gloria, US puppet"—referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo—and carried signs reading: "We need food, houses, not bombs," and "We need aid—not AIDS."

Fitts called on the Filipino people not to cast doubt on America's motives.

He said US forces would only "train, assist and advise our allies and our friends."

Fitts said the Balikatan exercise was America's response to Ms Macapagal's desire to help in the worldwide campaign against terrorism.

He said that right after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, Ms Macapagal phoned US President George W. Bush expressing her desire to help against followers of Bin Laden.

Resolved

The controversy over who will lead and issue decisions during the joint military exercises has been resolved.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southcom chief, said he would have the upper hand in decisions concerning military operations, while Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio and Wurster would take charge of the training exercises.

Villanueva, however, said that the training modules would still depend on the assessments to be made by US trainors.

"Trainors have to be familiar with the area of operation on the ground in order for them to be able to suggest or recommend the appropriate training modules," Villanueva told the INQUIRER during a guided tour inside the training centers at Camp Enrile, Malagutay.

Maj. Cynthia Terramae, chief of the US Pacific's Special Operations Command, also issued the same statement.

She was not sure, however, when the trainors would be arriving.

Aside from the absence of training modules, Terramae confirmed that the training calendar, copies of the ground rules for participating US forces and their Philippine counterparts were still being finalized.

In Davao City, Col. Roland Rodriguez, deputy commander of the Army's 701st Infantry Brigade, said there was nothing wrong in the deployment of US forces in Zamboanga and Basilan.

"Only leftists and militants are actually against it but majority favored the move," Rodriguez said.

Romeo Serra, president of the Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., said local businessmen favored Ms Macapagal's decision to allow the Americans to conduct the Balikatan exercise in Western Mindanao.

He said it was high time to seek external help as terrorist activities continued to take their toll on Mindanao's economy.

"A serious effort to address the peace and order problem of our country would restore and improve investor confidence," he said.

In Mati, Davao Oriental, various groups led by the militant AnakBayan assailed the war games.

Militant groups and legislators say the mission violates a constitutional clause, which restricts foreign combat troops on Philippine soil.

They also warned that Bush's State of the Union Address was a threat to intervene aggressively in the Philippines.

In his address, Bush said that if countries did not deal with terrorist activities on their soil, "America will."

Rep. Crispin Beltran (Bayan Muna) called Bush a "mad dog frothing in the mouth."

"The American government is on a rampage, and it deserves the condemnation of all other nations. Bush is milking the anti-terrorism issue for all its worth, using it to deflect the American people's attention from the worsening recession that has been wracking America even before the infamous Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center," Beltran said.

But Fitts said Bush was not referring to the Philippines.

"Nobody can doubt that the Philippine government and the Armed Forces of the Philippines are extremely serious in combating terrorism," Fitts said. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Christine Herrera in Manila; Julie S. Alipala, Ayan C. Mellejor, Anthony S. Allada, Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AP, Reuters***

. . .But terms of reference still unsigned

From page A1

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. demanded to see the document and said he was giving Malacañang up to the end of the day to provide him a copy.

Asked whether he would seek a stop to the military exercise if he found the TOR not to his liking, Guingona said he would "cross the bridge when we get there."

"Let us see," said Guingona, who had earlier opposed the Balikatan on legal grounds. "The day is not over yet."

Senate President Franklin Drilon, however, said there was no inconsistency between the TOR and the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

"I don't think there is anything inconsistent with the previous position that the Armed Forces of the Philippines will be the lead (in the Balikatan)," Drilon said.

He said the provisions in the TOR were clear in saying that "the Americans would be authorized to protect themselves."

"That is consistent with the principle that they will only engage in combat when they are under attack and in self-defense. (The Americans) do not have to wait to be shot at," Drilon said, adding:

"If there is a threat, they can defend themselves. That has always been the position (in the VFA)—that they can only fire back in self-defense."

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, admitted that the US and Philippine governments had yet to finalize the TOR.

"We are being careful about it so that there would be no confusion about the role of American military personnel," he said in a teleconference call from New York.

Tiglao said Bush's State of the Union Address settled all speculations about the US military presence in the Philippines.

"It is very clear from the commander in chief himself of US forces that US personnel are there to train our troops in fighting terrorist cells," he said.

According to Tiglao, the TOR would be signed before the actual military exercise starts this month.

He said AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes would sign for the Philippines, but that he did not know yet who would sign for the United States.

Exercise or operation?

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr., chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, said defense and military officials would be recalled to another inquiry to clarify whether the Balikatan would be a military "exercise" or "operation."

He said Philippine and US officials were using different terms for the undertaking, which officially kicked off with a ceremony yesterday at the Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City.

But Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., chair of the defense committee that conducted a hearing on Wednesday jointly with Lozada's committee, said all issues had been clarified as far as he was concerned.

Pichay, however, said he would agree to another hearing to enable defense officials to produce the TOR.

"We'll pin them down on this issue," Lozada said, adding that the second hearing would be set on the second week of this month.

Lozada is concerned that the Balikatan had already formally opened even without the signing of the TOR.

General Villanueva admitted at the Wednesday hearing that the document had yet to be signed.

"The ideal is, we should have a signed terms of reference," Pichay conceded. "But for practical reasons, since the US troops are here and there is already an agreement between the two sides, we can have the ceremony already."

According to Lozada, it is Guingona, who represents the Philippines in the council of ministers of the RP-US Mutual Defense Board, who should sign the document.

"The Vice President should be the signatory, or the President could designate (Defense) Secretary Reyes, which I think is the likely scenario," Lozada said.

Rules of Engagement

Biazon said Annex II of the Rules of Engagement of the joint military exercise allowed US military commanders to take unilateral actions under certain conditions.

For example, he said, self-defense measures could be ordered if an exercise site or convoy was directly attacked and the AFP or Philippine National Police was not able or "unwilling" to adequately respond.

"Very clearly, what is disturbing about these provisions is that the judgment to determine whether the PNP or AFP forces are not able or 'unwilling' to remove the threat belongs to the US commanders," the senator said. "The American commander is allowed to take unilateral actions over the concerns of the Filipino commanders or authorities."

Biazon pointed out that the US troops would be deployed in the company of Filipino soldiers conducting combat patrols and offensives against the Abu Sayyaf in the combat zone.

The Abu Sayyaf is holding hostage two Americans and a Filipino.

He expressed concern over the possible transformation of the conditions on the ground from an exercise scenario to a combat situation.

If this happens, the American troops will cease to be under the command and control of Filipino commanders, he said.

To correct the situation, Biazon said, the government should limit the involvement of US troops to the training area of Malagutay in Zamboanga City or any other area outside of Basilan or Jolo, Sulu.

Transparency

Even Fidel Ramos wants the government to finalize the TOR and to make it public.

"I am calling on all the Cabinet members concerned with the formulation of the terms of reference covering the Balikatan exercise to finalize these terms," the former President said in a press conference before leaving for Indonesia on Wednesday.

"And these should be made transparent," he said.

Ramos said finalizing the document would not only allay public fears but also do away with the confusion caused by varying announcements on the Balikatan.

He particularly cited the conflicting statements of authorities in the United States and their representatives in the Philippines, and said these were unfair to Ms Macapagal.

Ramos cited reports quoting US authorities as claiming that their presence in the Philippines and other countries meant actual combat against the supposed local allies of Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network. ***With reports from Christine Herrera, Rocky Nazareno, Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora***

Pinatubo ambush . . .

From page A1

of overcast skies.

According to Rafanan, a team of Army soldiers was left in the area to guard the body. They will take off early today.

"Coordination has been established with US Embassy officials to determine what to do with (the body)," Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta told reporters in Manila.

Whitman, in his 60s and his right leg bleeding from a bullet wound, said he was "positively sure" that Smith was killed when they were attacked by unidentified armed men while they were trekking on Mt. Pinatubo on Wednesday. Whitman has been airlifted to the Angeles University Foundation Hospital.

Rafanan had earlier tagged the New People's Army as behind the attack, but the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines has yet to claim responsibility.

"Apparently, Whitman was hit by the same bullet that killed Smith," Mabanta said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the military and police to submit a full report on Smith's killing, her spokesperson said.

"We are saddened by the incident," Rigoberto Tiglao said in a teleconference call from New York. He said the Philippine government was hoping that the NPA was not behind the killing because "they risk the perception and the United States' assessment that they are a terrorist group."

Tiglao said he did not wish to speculate on talks that the killing was meant to embarrass the President, who is on an eight-day swing through the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

"If they (the NPA) did it, it sends an awful signal," he said.

According to Bruce McTavish, president of the Angeles International Travel Center, Smith, a tourist, was in his early 30s and a bachelor who rented an apartment on Malabanias Street just outside Clark in Angeles City.

Reuters said Whitman had been living in Angeles for the past 10 years.

Mobile phone

Whitman's mobile phone was the "key instrument" in his rescue, said Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information chief of the 600th Air Base Wing in Clark.

With his phone forming a bump in his pocket, Whitman limped as he disembarked from an Army Huey helicopter at the Clark airport's south ramp at 2:20 p.m.

PAF Maj. Allan Fidellaga, who led the search mission, said rescuers were emboldened to continue the search because Whitman's German friend, Jans Peter, received a text message from him about 6:25 a.m. yesterday.

The message, the last one Whitman was able to send before his phone battery gave out, read: Help.

Fidellaga told reporters that Whitman was spotted from the air at 1:30 p.m., peeking from a cave about 3 kilometers from the headwaters of the Pasig-Potrero River, also in Sapang Uwak.

Army soldiers bodily carried the German for almost 30 minutes to a field where a chopper had landed.

Fidellaga quoted Whitman as saying that the gunmen attacked him and Smith at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, and that Smith was shot 5 km upstream.

Whitman said he and Smith were regular trekkers to Pinatubo and did not hire local guides.

The motor bikers earlier reported as companions of the two trekkers were actually Whitman's German friends who had organized a rescue team.

Fidellaga told reporters that NPA rebels had been sighted in the mountain boundary of Porac.

The officer also said the NPA could not have mistaken Whitman for a US serviceman because of his age.

Both Whitman and Smith were initially reported as US soldiers engaged in the ongoing "Balance Piston" training at Clark.

Rene Wyss, a Swiss who arranges recreation activities for visiting US troops, dodged calls from reporters inquiring about his accountability for the incident.

It was Wyss who had alerted the PAF in Clark about the attack after getting a call from Whitman. Officials said it was also Wyss who had arranged the trek for Smith.

MH-47

The US Army's MH-47 scoured the mountains of Porac until Wednesday midnight, according to Col. Charles Hotchkiss, deputy commander of the 600th Air Base Wing in Clark.

Hotchkiss told reporters that Philippine and American military officials had cleared the use of the MH-47 in the "humanitarian mission."

He said the US military could extend such assistance in emergency cases even without prior clearance from the host country.

Army Maj. Kevin Colyer, Balance Piston joint mission commander, declined to confirm or deny that his contingent had sent the MH-47.

He referred the INQUIRER to US Embassy Press Attaché Karen Kelly, but the latter could not be reached.

Reuters said that when asked whether the attack on Whitman and Smith was connected to the current US military presence in the country, regional police spokesperson Supt. Amado Paneda said: "Definitely not. These are civilians, noncombatants." ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Carlito Pablo in Manila; Reuters***

Filipino maids in HK win fight: No pay cut

From page A1

The Philippine Consulate welcomed the news and expressed thanks to Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa and other officials for "making the process of review of the minimum allowable wage more transparent."

"The poorest of the poor must not be the first to be sacrificed in times of an economic downturn. Happy workers are productive workers," the consulate said in a statement.

A total of 233,110 foreign domestic workers are employed in the territory, with Filipinos accounting for about 67 percent or 155,330. Indonesians number 66,970, Thais 6,940 and other nationals 3,870.

12 hours daily

The maids typically work at least 12 hours a day, six days a week and live in closet-sized rooms squeezed into Hong Kong's typically tiny apartments. Some are required to sleep on kitchen floors.

The decision to freeze the minimum wage came after protests by domestic workers from the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Nepal, and lobbying by their respective governments.

Late last year, migrant workers' groups met with protests the Hong Kong government's announcement that it was studying the possibility of 15-20 percent wage cut. Thousands of domestic helpers took to the streets.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said the noise created by the workers "helped immeasurably" in convincing the Hong Kong government to freeze the minimum wage.

But it was Sto. Tomas who asked Filipino maids in Hong Kong to go slow on their protests as these might backfire.

"We remembered when the Philippine government branded our protest actions as alienating and counterproductive. They wanted to create the impression that our actions will jeopardize the campaign and that their 'diplomatic efforts' will prevent the wage cut," Regalado said.

"Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Thomas, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao and President Macapagal-Arroyo should eat their words," she said.

Regalado said that just before Christmas, Ms Macapagal had declared her support for a 5-10 percent wage cut in exchange for the assurance that Filipino workers would not be retrenched.

Vigilance

Migrante International, which coordinated the campaign against the proposed wage cut, urged Filipino maids in Hong Kong to remain vigilant as the decision was only good until "further review" by the Hong Kong government of the economic situation.

"The government will closely monitor the economic and employment situation and assess whether further review will be required when up-to-date data, which reflect more recent economic trends, are available," Hong Kong's secretary for education and manpower said in a statement.

The minimum wage for foreign domestic helpers was cut by 5 percent in 1999 as a result of the Asian economic crisis and has been frozen since.

With Hong Kong verging on recession, many families complain it is getting harder to pay even the minimum wage. Their complaints raised alarm that the government's wage review would result in a decrease.

Despite the legal minimum, many non-English and non-Chinese-speaking Indonesian domestic helpers get as little as HK$1,800 (US$230) a month.

In a press conference, Sto. Tomas said lobbying by the Philippine government helped in influencing the Hong Kong government to freeze the minimum wage.

She cited the visit to the territory last month by some members of the House of Representatives, who spoke with members of the legislative council.

"It was really a confluence of so many factors. We must appreciate the efforts of the domestic helpers whose expression of their sentiment against the wage cut helped immeasurably," the labor secretary said.

Sto. Tomas said she received the "good news" at 12:15 p.m. yesterday through a phone call from Hong Kong Consul General Zenaida Angara-Collinson.

The labor secretary immediately relayed the message to the President, who is on an official trip to the United States and Canada.

Sto. Tomas said the President was "very happy" and would call Tung to express her gratitude and appreciation for the positive decision.

On militant groups' claim that she favored a wage cut, Sto. Tomas said: "Let's just be thankful that their accusations were not proven true. Sometimes, it's really hard to speculate."

Flushed with victory, migrant groups planned a parade and celebration in downtown Hong Kong on Sunday. ***With reports from AFP and AP***

Dayrit alienates self from many NSAs—Andrada

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TENNIS association president Buddy Andrada, a former staunch ally of Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, yesterday said the POC chief has "alienated" himself from many national sports association heads.

One of the 15 NSA chiefs who rocked Wednesday's POC general assembly by not showing up, Andrada advised Dayrit to "address these problems as soon as possible."

"It's a wake-up call for Mr. Dayrit. He must now admit that he's fast losing the trust and confidence of the majority. It's up to him what action he should do but I advise him to do it soon," said Andrada.

Dayrit said his group was still able to a quorum with 19 NSA heads or representatives in attendance.

This was disputed by Andrada's camp, saying there were only 17 NSAs present "since wushu's Julian Camacho failed to show up and cycling only sent a director, who is not among the authorized attendees."

Andrada attributed Dayrit's alienation to Dayrit's move to transfer the POC offices from the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex to the Philippine International Convention Center last year.

"I don't know who benefited from that transfer," said Andrada. "But certainly very few NSA heads were able to visit the POC offices there. This is an advice to him."

Judo's Reynaldo Jaylo also criticized POC's decision to relocate, saying the money spent to rent and maintain that place can be used for other important matters like lending support to the NSAs. POC still has its place in the RMSC but Dayrit rarely holds office there.

Still, Andrada praised Dayrit's promise to reach out to the discontented NSA heads, saying it is a "good sign.

But Dayrit has yet to come up with a schedule for such dialogues.

Juan hattrick powers La Salle to semifinals

ILOILO CITY—Metro Manila champion La Salle Zobel banked on the hattrick of Miguel Juan to crush Davao's Rizal Memorial Colleges, 3-0, and barge into the semifinals of the 18th Coke Go-for-Goal national football championship yesterday at the La Paz field here.

The 15-year-old Juat struck in the 39th, 43th and 89th minutes to help the Manilans recover from a 1-3 setback at the hands of host Barotac Nuevo National High last Tuesday.

Last year's runner-up La Salle Academy of Iligan battled Masbate National Comprehensive High to a 2-2 deadlock in yesterday's other contest.

Despite the draw, the LSA booters virtually assured themselves of a semifinal spot since Cebu Carmen High had blasted Masbate High, 9-0, in Tuesday's other match.

LSA and Masbate battled on even terms throughout, with the Mindanao boys needing a penalty kick from Sean Gipaya with barely three minutes left in the game to salvage the tie.

Philip John Banaag scored twice—one in the 38th minute and the other in the 50th—to give Masbate a 2-1 lead.

Rikko Villa scored the first LSA marker in the 43rd.

Davao titlist RMC badly missed the services of under-17 National Youth team candidate Jason Mortillano, who nursed a fever. Two other RMC stars—Renoir Moses Negro and John Ray Relopez—also had to be pulled out due to injuries.

Qualifying action continues today with RMC facing Barotac Nuevo at 8 a.m. and Cebu Carmen National High taking on La Salle Iligan at 10 o'clock.

Scoop Forum, election set

CHITO Narvasa and MBA superstar Romel Adducul are guests in today's Scoop Forum at the Kamayan West Avenue starting at 10:30 a.m., Scoop president Beth Celis announced. Celis also said the Scoop election is on Feb. 8.

SPORTSWATCH

PNBA gets P.1 M from Buhain

WITH "Unity and Excellence" as its theme, the Philippine National Basketball Academy (PNBA) honored on Wednesday last year's best in amateur basketball, with no less than the country's top sports personalities and Asian basketball leaders in attendance. Newly appointed Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain led the list of guests, including Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) president Carl Men Ky Ching, legendary Korean cager Shin Dong Pa and ABC secretary general yeoh Cho Hock. Buhain, who came with commissioners Cynthia Carrion and William Ramirez, spoke about his commitment to help his fellow athletes and work hand in hand with the national sports associations. He later pledged P100,000 for the PNBA.

Tyson faces 2 rape charges in Vegas

TYSON

LAS VEGAS —Las Vegas police are investigating a second felony rape allegation against heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson. Clark County District Attorney Stewart Bell confirmed Wednesday that detectives have been investigating sexual assault complaints against Tyson by two women. The district attorney said prosecutors and police plan to meet Friday to discuss a September complaint by a Las Vegas woman and a November 2000 allegation from another woman police identified only as being in her 20s and an out-of-state resident. Authorities had not previously acknowledged the November 2000 case.

AP

P.4 million staked at Pasay cockpit

METRO Manila's big-time cockers clash in a special 5-cock derby tonight at Pasay City Cockpit. The program will be sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Hammer Dewormer. To host the event is well-known derbyist Tony Lasala, who said the cash prize at stake is P400,000. Entries must be submitted from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and interested parties may contact 843-1890 and 843-1746. Meanwhile, the second PCC 4-cock derby will be held on Feb. 8 with Dante Eustaquio, Jojie Carandang and Capt. Mirande as hosts. Meanwhile, the "JR Sa Pasay 4-Cock Derby" will be held on Feb. 15.

3 share honors in ruling NCA derby

IN a close and frenetic finish, three entries shared first place by scoring identical 5-1/2 points Wednesday night to rule the NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. Emerging joint champions were Firefly Thunderbird 13 of the touted Firefly Group, Binangonan SMV I of three-term Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares and R & B Farm I of Rep. Claude Bautista and Boyboy Roa. Three others finished behind the winners with five points each and these were PE San Pablo Heat R & B of veteran campaigner Pol Estrellado, Binangonan MK and BPZ Sunshine of Boy Primalion.

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Tribeca 2. Count Your Blessing

Race 2—1. Sure to Glow 2. Day and Night 3. Lavish Feast 4. Hotrod

Race 3—1. Premiere Event 2. Bright Task 3. Raise D Sun 4. Earth Angel

Race 4—1. Golden Quest 2. Snowy Market 3. Talk to Patsy 4. Thunder Fire

Race 5—1. Power Corrupts 2. Be Ready 3. Lucky El 4. Yoko Lady

Race 6—1. Shower of Stars 2. Deputy Royale 3. Red Bells 4. Field Master 5. Aya's Dream

Race 7—1. Profit Margin 2. Above All 3. Nagniningning 4. Manila Mauler 5. Cardinal Rule

Race 8—1. Snake prince 2. Norma's Pet

Race 9—1. Arriba King 2. Real Dancer 3. Ilocos Queen 4. Action Mark 5. Real Charm 5. Dressed to Impress 6. Beauty and Grace

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1988, West Davao 1 tallied 163 points over Matina Davao 1 to claim the PAL-Rotary golf team championship in Cebu City. Also today in 1997, Danny Zarate shot a 2-under-par 70 to post a one-stroke victory over Ruben Sasutil in the Toyota Open at Canlubang.

DHL-NGAP OPEN

Dizon grabs 2-shot edge

By Jong Arcano

THE BOSS wants him to stay in the office more often. But Marlon Dizon always finds a way to show the Boss—who by the way is also his father—that he spends quality time outside the office premises.

Trying to retrace the magical season he had at Canlubang two years ago, Dizon found another good excuse for his leave when he fired a two-under-par 70 yesterday to grab a two-stroke lead after three rounds of the DHL-NGAP Amateur Open.

Dizon's round was spiked by three birdies against a lone bogey on a windless day at Canlubang North.

He was at 212, two up on two-day leader Juami Rocha and reigning national amateur champion Angelo Que.

Que boosted his chances with 71 while Rocha, an original member of the Brat Pack who is eyeing a return to the national team fold, submitted a 73 marred by a three-putt bogey on 16.

Carmelette Villaroman survived a back nine collapse to remain four ahead of newly crowned Philippine Ladies Open champion Heidi Chua in the ladies division.

Villaroman, shooting a 74, totalled 146 for 36 holes while Chua stood at 150 after a 72 in a tie with resurgent jungolf ace Jayvie Agojo.

But while Que broke into the title picture, defending champion Juvic Pagunsan seemed to have faded out of contention.

Pagunsan, the Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, shot a 76 and was seven shots off the pace with one round left.

"I've been playing on borrowed time since I'm employed in the family corporation (Inter-Conglomerate, Inc.) *Nakakahiya sa* Daddy *pero* so far okay *naman ang laro ko*," said Dizon. "Everybody just wants to win. I think the battle here will be decided on the greens."

Els up by 3

MELBOURNE, Australia—South African Ernie Els birdied nine holes in perfect scoring conditions Thursday to take the early first-round lead with an 8-under 64 at the $1-million Heineken Classic.

Playing under mostly cloudy skies, light winds and with soft greens on the Royal Melbourne composite course, Els birdied the third, fourth and fifth holes—his second nine after starting on the 10th—and finished with a birdie to take a three-shot lead over Australian Adam Scott.

AP

ROMY HOMILLADA

MARLON DIZON: The Comeback Kid raring to win again.

Schumacher, Barrichello suffer no injuries after crashes

BARCELONA, Spain—World champion Formula One driver Michael Schumacher and his Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello both escaped injury Wednesday when their cars spun off the track during testing at the Circuit de Catalunya course in northeastern Spain.

Schumacher's car, traveling over 200 kilometers an hour (125 mph), hit protective tire barriers. No other vehicle was involved, and the 33-year-old German walked away unscathed.

"I suddenly lost control of the car," Schumacher said. "I made a mistake, it was my fault. But I'm OK, nothing happened to me."

Just over an hour later, Barrichello, Ferrari's No. 2 driver, suffered a similar accident and also escaped injury.

Barrichello wrecked another Ferrari during a crash at a circuit in eastern Spain two weeks ago.

Wednesday's incidents forced Ferrari to cancel testing for the rest of the week as the team had run out of cars.

This was Schumacher's 14th career crash. The worst was when he broke his leg in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in July 1999. He missed six races.

AP

San Sebastian blanks JRU, stays unbeaten

SAN SEBASTIAN College defeated Jose Rizal University, 3-0, yesterday to remain unbeaten in four games in the seniors division of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men's tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The Stags banked on Conrado Amita's 6-1, 6-2 victory in the first singles, Nino Salvador and Arvin Ruel's 6-0, 6-0 triumph over Hercules Aguanta and Chester Vicencio in the doubles, and Edgardo Banaag's walkover win over Vicencio in the second singles.

In the other game, Mapua Institute of Technology downed University of Perpetual Help of Rizal, 3-0.

Raffy Santiago outplayed Dennis Canaria, 6-2, 6-2 in the first singles and teamed up with Roger Rodolfo to beat John Motol and Canaria, 6-1, 6-1, in the doubles. Flint Almiron completed the Cardinals' win via an 8-0 decision over Motol in the second singles.

Tyson causes huge Vegas losses

LAS VEGAS—Mike Tyson wasn't the only one who lost when Nevada regulators refused to reinstate his boxing license. Las Vegas stands to lose an estimated $6.5 million in non-gambling revenue with the cancellation of the April 6 heavyweight title fight between Tyson and Lennox Lewis, the Las Vegas Visitors and Convention Authority said Wednesday. "The last five major boxing events have generated collectively $32.5 million in non-gaming economic impact for the city," authority spokeswoman Erika Brandvik said. "That's an average of $6.5 million per event." Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission, said he was aware of estimates of the fight's economic impact on Las Vegas that reached as high as $100 million.

AP

Victims mostly children

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THERE are many people—most of whom are poor and innocent children—whose illnesses or deaths are reported to have been caused by the toxic contamination left behind in the former American military bases, particularly at Clark Air Base. This is the strongest reason why I have been opposing the much-publicized plan to build a permanent sports complex inside Clark, not to mention its bid to host the 2005 Southeast Asian Games. The place is hazardous to the physical and mental health of the athletes who will be training there.

What I am saying is based on hard facts. At Clark, at least 80 deaths have been reported as a result of drinking contaminated water at its evacuation area where 20,000 families were evacuated after the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991.

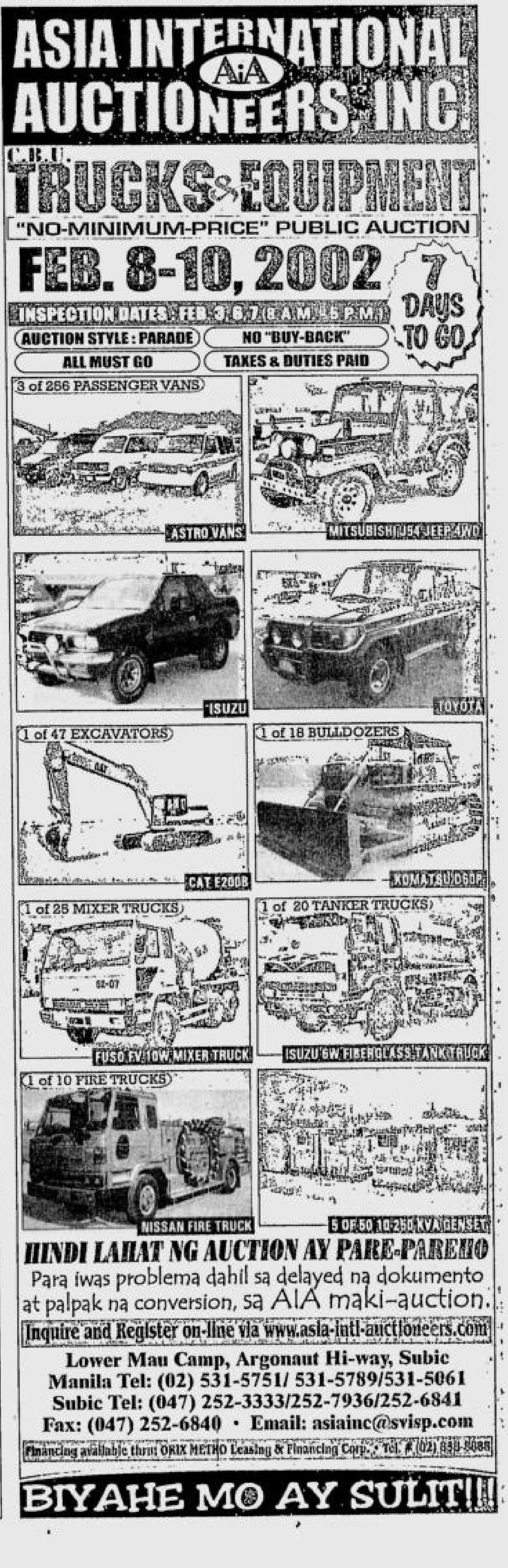
Not only that. There are many other shocking facts, but sadly, these startling findings remain largely invisible to the public since many Third World nations lack the time and the means to investigate, much less have a voice and report the truth. Fortunately, the pocketbook "Inheritors of the Earth" published by the People's Task Force for Bases Clean Up (thank you, Mryla Baldonado), provides concerned citizens with eye-opening details such as pinpointing the contaminated sites inside Clark Air Base and listing some victims of chemical contamination, among them 6-year-old Crizel Jan Valencia, now a leukemia patient from Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Crizel and her family once lived inside Clark Air Base after they lost their home to the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. They later discovered that their home sat where the Americans had serviced and fueled their vehicles and that the water they had been drinking and bathing was highly contaminated with heavy metals and other toxic substances.

"The Americans left this garbage in our country," said Herondina Valencia, Crizel's mother. "Many died already. We want the Americans to know what happened to us."

"We were the first victims of the volcano, then the toxics and my child got sick," bemoaned Carmelita Pineda, mother of 3-year-old Shiela, a victim of congenital heart. "The Americans should pay for this. It's just not my child who is sick, there are many more."

Because they are silenced by poverty, most victims do not have the time and money to visit doctors or even ask for assistance. For instance, Ernesto Borja of Madapdap suffers from kidney disease; his wife Elianor died last year from breast cancer, leaving no one except for a 6-year-old daughter to take care of his son Rowell, 5, who has a congenital heart and stomach problems, while Ernesto is at work.



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O'Neal powers Lakers

ORLANDO, Florida—Shaquille O'Neal had 30 points and 14 rebounds, and Kobe Bryant had 12 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter in the NBA Wednesday as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Orlando Magic, 111-93. **Complete results:** Indiana 83, Memphis 82; Philadelphia 96, Minnesota 91; Detroit 88, Atlanta 71; L.A. Lakers 111, Orlando 93; Utah 90, Chicago 78. *AP*

SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 9 a.m. (r–8:30 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA—LA Clippers vs San Antonio Spurs at 9:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.) on ESPN
US NCAA—Purdue vs Indiana at 1 p.m., Maryland vs Virginia at midnight on ESPN
GOLF: PGA Phoenix Open Highlights at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

PBL CHALLENGE CUP

Shark defeats Welcoat for 2-0 lead

GAMES TOMORROW
(Makati Colisuem)
1:30 p.m.—Kutitap vs ICTSI La Salle
5:30 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Shark

By Dennis U. Eroa

UNFORGIVING Shark Energy Drink broke Welcoat's spirit with a second half blitzkrieg last night, pounding out a 67-58 victory to take a commanding 2-0 lead in the PBL Challenge Cup best-of-seven championship series at the Makati Coliseum.

Playing ferociously, Shark left Welcoat gasping for breath, closing the pivotal third quarter with a 19-6 bomb which mercilessly devastated the Paintmasters, who simply faded in the final 10 minutes of play.

Welcoat, thanks to Ren Ren Ritualo and Yancy de Ocampo's gutsy plays, was still ahead, 35-31, when Clarence Cole instigated Shark's fiery finish with a hook shot.

As the smoke of battle cleared, the Enery Drink Kings were ahead, 50-41, a lead that they painstakingly protected till the final buzzer after Irvin Sotto flung a surprise triple, 53-41, setting up Shark's fiery finish.

"We should not be overconfident," said Shark mentor Leo Austria as the Energy Drink Kings made a fitting followup to their 80-79 overtime win in Game One over the Paintmasters on Tuesday.

Game 3 is set for tomorrow at 3:30 p.m., after the Kutitap-ICTSI-La Salle battle for third at 1:30 p.m.

Last year, Shark fell behind 0-2 but rallied to beat Welcoat, 4-3, to win its first PBL title.

"We didn't play our game ," said Welcoat mentor Junel Baculi, who gave his charges a tongue-lashing in the dugout.

He now faces the difficult task of beating Shark four times in the next five games in order to salvage the crown.

Indeed, the last-minute collapse of Welcoat, which is eyeing its fifth title, came as a surprise.

Trouble started when Jojo Manalo, Ritualo, De Ocampo and Derick Canlas started missing their shots against an airtight Shark defense anchored on full-court press.

Shark complemented that defense with a near-flawless offense bannered mainly by Warren Ybañez, Cole, Irvin Sotto, Ysmael Junio and Chester Tolomia.

Welcoat had one last chance to turn the game around when Ritualo buried his third triple to cut Shark's lead to 54-50.

But Junio illustrated Shark's determination when he answered back with his own three-point bomb, 57-50, putting a damper on Welcoat's assault.

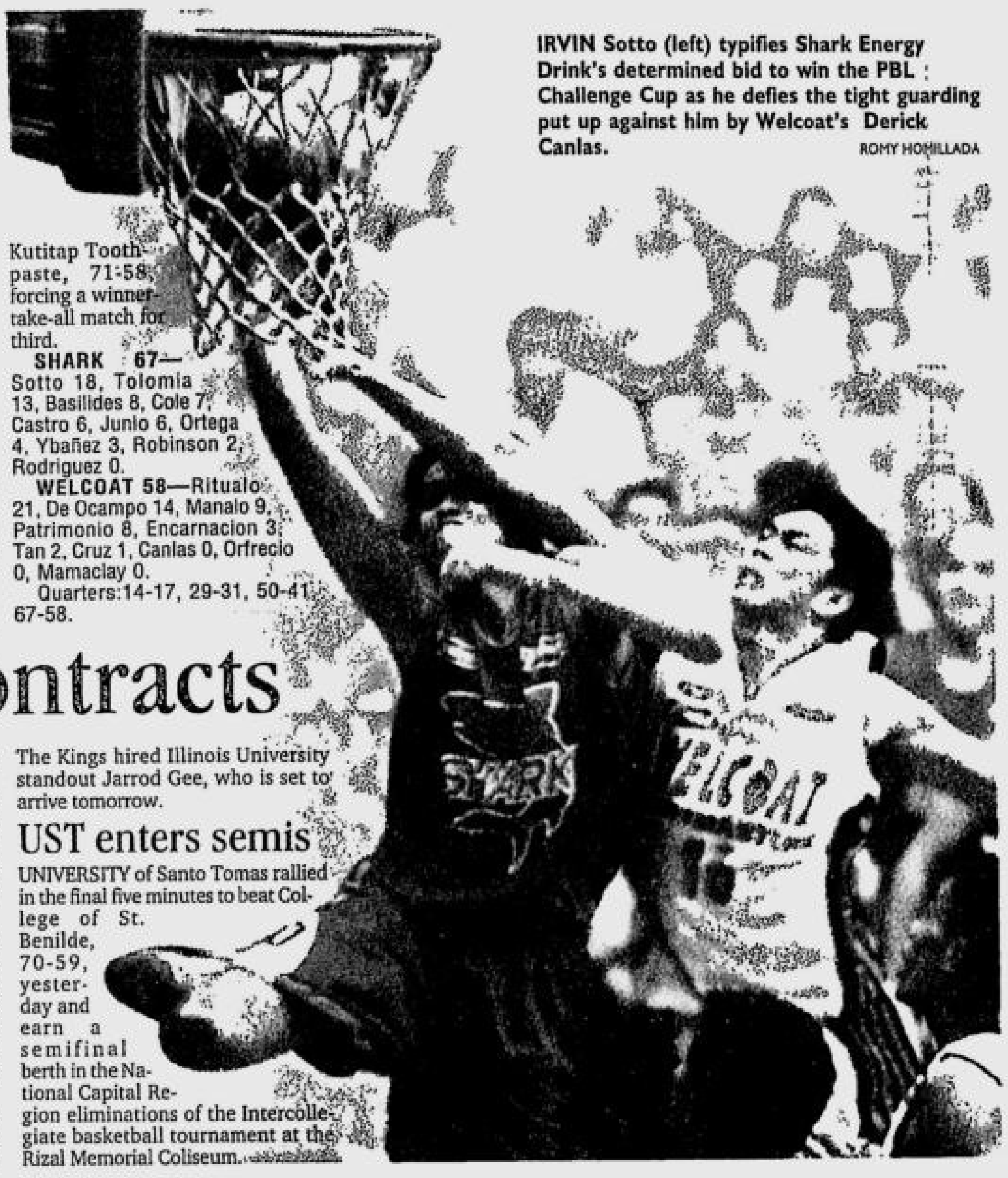
After Manalo and Ritualo failed to convert baskets in succession, defensive specialist Gerald Ortega sank two gift shots and then Ybañez, hero of Game 1, drove off De Ocampo and Allen Patrimonio for Shark's irreversible 61-50 bubble, 3:02 remaining.

Earlier, ICTSI-La Salle outlasted Kutitap Toothpaste, 71-58, forcing a winner-take-all match for third.

SHARK 67—Sotto 18, Tolomia 13, Basilides 8, Cole 7, Castro 6, Junio 6, Ortega 4, Ybañez 3, Robinson 2, Rodriguez 0.

WELCOAT 58—Ritualo 21, De Ocampo 14, Manalo 9, Patrimonio 8, Encarnacion 3, Tan 2, Cruz 1, Canlas 0, Orfrecio 0, Mamaclay 0.

Quarters:14-17, 29-31, 50-41, 67-58.



IRVIN Sotto (left) typifies Shark Energy Drink's determined bid to win the PBL Challenge Cup as he defies the tight guarding put up against him by Welcoat's Derick Canlas. ROMY HOMILLADA

Lago, Peña renew SMB contracts

By June Navarro

SWINGMAN Dwight Lago and man-mountain Dorian Peña renewed their ties with San Miguel Beer, inking two-year contracts that would guarantee them almost a quarter of a million every month.

San Miguel officials opted not to divulge the terms of the multi-million bargain but a source said the 33-year-old Lago stands to earn at least P5.2 million while the 6-foot-8 Peña will earn P5.7 million.

While both players relish their success, MBA superstar Rommel Adducul continues to be bothered by his status in the Batangas Blades and his stint in the national team to the Asian Games.

Adducul is torn between his commitment to the Blades and the love to play for the country as the MBA refused to release him to the national team, citing a conflict of schedule.

Graham Lim, secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, said they would enter into a compromise with the MBA in order to release Adducul to the training pool.

Lim said the compromise entails setting Adducul free from the Blades' responsibility even just for the first conference of the 2002 PBA season which is set to begin on Feb. 10.

After getting the nod of the MBA, a source told the INQUIRER the BAP would then ask Asian Games coach Jong Uichico to reserve a slot for Adducul even if it's the last.

At presstime, Lim and MBA commissioner Chito Loyzaga were hammering out a solution on Adducul's dilemma. Adducul, a many-time national team member, belongs to Team B of the Asian Games national training pool.

Meanwhile, San Miguel Beer found a perfect partner for Lamont Strothers in the Commissioner's Cup.

Keith Hill, a 6-foot-8 31-year-old power forward who had several stints in the European circuit, will join Strothers as reinforcements for the Beermen.

Sister team Barangay Ginebra also got an import that will complement with Bubba Wells inside the paint. The Kings hired Illinois University standout Jarrod Gee, who is set to arrive tomorrow.

UST enters semis

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas rallied in the final five minutes to beat College of St. Benilde, 70-59, yesterday and earn a semifinal berth in the National Capital Region eliminations of the Intercollegiate basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Globe HANDYPHONE

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Here are last week's winners:

	JANUARY 21, 2002	JANUARY 22, 2002	JANUARY 23, 2002	JANUARY 24, 2002	JANUARY 25, 2002	JANUARY 26, 2002	JANUARY 27, 2002
10:00AM	RONIE TENG Mandaluyong City Nokia 6210	ROWENA BULAC Zamboanga Nokia 6210	MARILOU ORDONEZ Marikina City ₱20,000	LEO AQUINO Dagupan, Pangasinan ₱100,000	ARNOLD PASCUA Tondo, Manila ₱20,000	MARSHA GARATE Mandaue City ₱10,000	JEORGE CASTRO Navotas, Metro Manila ₱10,000
11:00AM	RICARDO DE OCAMPO Batangas City Nokia 8850	JOSEPH CELEDONIO Cebu City ₱50,000	MARIZA MAQUINANO Pasig City ₱10,000	ANGELA MARIE CASTILLO Tondo, Manila Nokia 8310	THERESE LOUISE TAN Iloilo City Nokia 6210	ROSELYN YTING Oroquieta City ₱100,000	AURORA BENAVIDEZ Pasig City ₱50,000
12:00NN	RUTH MARIE DALENA Makati City ₱50,000	JEORGE CASTRO Navotas, Metro Manila ₱10,000	CECILIA SAYSON Marikina City Nokia 9210	KENNETH TABERNERO Malate, Manila ₱10,000	LOIDA DAQUIZ Muntinlupa City Nokia 8250	EDMUNDO VARGAS JR. Mandaluyong City ₱10,000	GIL ASTROPHEL ORCENA Intramuros, Manila Nokia 6210
1:00PM	ROMIE LIBAO Quezon City ₱10,000	GLORIA GARCIA Bulacan Nokia 8250	MARCELO SADIE II Malolos, Bulacan Nokia 6210	KRISTINE ALQUIZA Davao City Nokia 6210	LETICIA AUXILLO Mandaue City ₱10,000	CHAYNA CHUA Cebu City Nokia 6210	EDEN EBREO Davao City Nokia 9210
2:00PM	VHON CABRERA Tondo, Manila Nokia 6210	ROBERTO JOSE VALIDO Sta. Cruz, Manila ₱10,000	BENSON CHENG Cubao, Quezon City ₱20,000	TEODORA CASTILLO Mariveles, Bataan ₱10,000	DAISY BENDICION San Juan, Metro Manila ₱20,000	JAYSON TUAÑO Taguig City Nokia 8850	ROMEO SEGUIDO Caloocan City ₱10,000
3:00PM	DANNY BISMONTE Binondo, Manila Nokia 8310	ASUNCION DELFIN Mandaluyong City Nokia 6210	TEODORA GARCIA Mandaluyong City Nokia 6210	JERRY ASUNCION Sultan Kudarat Nokia 6210	ALMA SEGUI Sorsogon Nokia 6210	RICARDO BAQUIRAN Tuguegarao City Nokia 8250	RONNEL CASTRO Makati City Nokia 6210
4:00PM	JAIME TAN Lucena City ₱10,000	AURA PASAMONTE Pampanga Nokia 8310	MEHDANY MAMAINTE Pasig City ₱10,000	MARIA CRISTINA CO Caloocan City Nokia 8250	RODERICK NARCISO Ilocos Norte ₱10,000	GINA SEGUERRA Legaspi City Nokia 6210	MA. LOURDES ALPE Parañaque City Nokia 8250

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METRO

Louie C. Camino, Editor

Arrest order vs ROTC cadets

MANILA Regional Trial Court Judge Edelwina Catubig-Pastoral has ordered the arrest, with no bail, of ROTC cadets Arnulfo Aparri Jr., Michael von Rainard Manangbao, Eduardo Tabrilla and Paul Joseph Tan, all accused of abducting and murdering UST student Mark Chua last year. The NBI last year arrested another suspect, Genesis Binagatan. *Jerome Aning*

Illegal terminal in Pasig

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. on Wednesday ordered police to dismantle an illegal terminal for FX taxis in a parking lot on F. Concepcion Street in Pariancillo, Barangay San Jose, Pasig City. A high ranking officer of the Pasig City Traffic Management Office was allegedly protecting the terminal. *Alcuin Papa*

Parañaque workers sacked

Mayor's office says firing not due to Joey-Alma breakup

MARQUEZ

MORENO

By Christian V. Esguerra

PARAÑAQUE City Hall employees fear they will lose their jobs after other workers known to be associated with actress Alma Moreno were sacked following the breakup of her 12-year marriage to Mayor Joey Marquez.

A source said yesterday that most of the employees, who lost their jobs recently, were hired on Moreno's recommendation and most run errands for different city hall departments.

But Marquez's spokesperson Mar Jimenez said the termination of the services of these employees had nothing to do with the couple's breakup even as he admitted that they were among the "hundreds of job-order workers" who lost their jobs recently.

"Their contracts simply expired," Jimenez said. He explained that the city government did not renew the workers' contracts last December because of the prevailing "business situation."

He said most of the employees signed a six-month contract to work on specific local government projects. Some of them worked under the office of the mayor, while others worked in the maintenance department and in garbage-management projects, he said.

Jimenez asked the public not to associate the streamlining of employees with the separation of Moreno and Marquez. He said the couple's relationship has simply turned sour and that the mayor has given his wife "breathing space and time to think things over."

Jimenez described the situation as temporary. "This normally happens to couple," he said.

He said Marquez has become more active since the breakup and goes to work as early as 7:30 a.m. and leaves the office as late as 8 p.m. Pictures of Moreno are conspicuously missing in the mayor's office.

Munti explosion suspect nabbed

POLICE on Wednesday arrested Omar Racman, 35, the suspected thrower of the grenade that killed three people and injured 28 others in Muntinlupa last week.

Racman, of Marawi City, was arrested at the Lazaro Compound in Calamba, Laguna, police said.

A witness allegedly saw Racman throw the grenade that killed two children and a male relative of Mayor Jaime Fresnedi at the Montillano Extension on Jan. 21.

The witness will receive the P100,000 reward Fresnedi had offered for the capture of the bombing suspect, said Muntinlupa information officer Tez Valencia.

Racman is facing criminal charges before the city prosecutor's office.

Police initially suspected the explosion was a result of the local government's campaign to drive away vendors from the Alabang viaduct area beginning late last year.

Christian V. Esguerra

MR. Trinidad's Bare Eye column, entitled "Eric Buhain victim pays back with caring tips," will come out on Monday, Feb. 4.

Mental hospital neighbors alarmed

By Nelson F. Flores

RESIDENTS near the National Center for Mental Health yesterday expressed concern that the disease that has reportedly stricken some hospital patients could get out of hand and affect their community even as the Department of Health declared that the situation is under control.

Three patients of the NCMH were earlier reported to have died after showing symptoms of cholera.

Dyowel Zurbano, who lives near the NCMH on Nueve de Febrero Street, said he is afraid his children would be afflicted with the disease. He said the possibility that the disease could get out of control was very real.

"There are many instances when what seems under control is actually not (under control)," he said.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit on Wednesday said the disease was already contained and that the affected areas had been placed under strict quarantine.

Dayrit also denied reports that two patients died of the disease. He said the cause of death was severe dehydration. The patients were found negative for cholera bacteria, he said.

The INQUIRER learned that the Mandaluyong City health office had been given orders to be on standby just in case hospital management failed to control the situation.

"But there is no reason to be alarmed," said a city official. "The national and city government are prepared to handle this kind of incidents."

Death threats preceded ambush

By Philip C. Tubeza

CHINESE-FILIPINO businessman David Sy-Lato had received death threats days before three unidentified men shot him dead on Wednesday afternoon in Binondo, Manila, an investigator said yesterday.

"He had been receiving death threats by text (messaging on his cellular phone)," said the investigator, adding that the killers appeared to have planned the murder in detail.

The investigator, who asked not to be identified, said police were trying to determine whether Sy-Lato was killed because he was a National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) confidential agent. The NBI and the Western Police District are investigating the murder.

Sy-Lato, 35, of Elcano Street, Binondo, was ambushed by three men when he went out of his home on Wednesday afternoon to go to a nearby bank.

He was able to fire back at his attackers and hit suspect Decoroso Pamesa, 36, a former Army man and resident of Upper Bicutan, Metro Manila. Pamesa is under police custody at the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

During the gunfight, a stray bullet hit bystander Roque Dizon. He was taken to the Metropolitan Hospital for treatment. Pamesa claimed it was Sy-Lato who first fired at him. Doctors said Pamesa's right leg, where he was hit, might have to be amputated.

Witnesses said Sy-Lato left his house about 2 p.m. on Wednesday to go to a bank. One of the three men called out his name. When he turned, the gunmen opened fire.

Sy-Lato returned fire even as he fell and hit Pamesa three times, police said.

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* SANPER TAB 50 mg	5.00	4.75
GOUT PREPARATIONS		
Allopurinol		
* PURINASE TAB 100 mg	6.30	6.00
* PURINASE TAB 300 mg	18.20	17.25
ANTIHYPERLIPIDAEMIC AGENTS		
Gemfibrozil		
* REDUCEL CAP 300 mg	11.25	10.65
* REDUCEL CAP 600 mg	17.25	16.35
ANTIPARKINSONISM PREPARATIONS		
Biperiden (Tab: HCl)		
* AKINETON TAB 2 mg	12.00	11.40

* Available only upon presentation of Physician's Prescription (Rx)

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0033S2002

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MTRCB RATING **PG-13** Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

FROM THE PRODUCER OF "ENEMY OF THE STATE" AND THE DIRECTOR OF "GLADIATOR"

LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND

BLACK HAWK DOWN

sony.com/BlackHawkDown

REVOLUTION STUDIOS

All star cast!

"The best war movie I've seen!"
-- Larry King, CNN

From Ridley Scott, acclaimed director of GLADIATOR and Jerry Bruckheimer, producer of PEARL HARBOR comes a war epic voted by *Time Magazine* as one of the best films of the year.

The all-star cast includes the brightest names in young Hollywood: Josh Hartnett of PEARL HARBOR, Ewan McGregor of MOULIN ROUGE and Orlando Bloom, the well-loved Legolas in LORD OF THE RINGS.

Columbia Pictures' BLACK HAWK DOWN is the true story of elite American soldiers on a mission to stop a ruthless Somalian warlord in 1993.

Don't miss this must-see movie event, described by CNN's Larry King as "the best war movie I've ever seen."

NOW SHOWING

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS)	HEART IN ATLANTIS
4 GOLD (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
8	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
9	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10	FINAL ANSWER

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
6 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	FINAL ANSWER
3	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

METROPOLIS star
Tel. 850 4285

1	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2	HEART IN ATLANTIC
3	FINAL ANSWER
4	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	WALANG IWANAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
A	ISANG PANAGINIP

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	FINAL ANSWER
4	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	HEART IN ATLANTIS
6	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 (DOLBY)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ISANG PANAGINIP

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	FINAL ANSWER
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (SDDS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
6 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 (DTS)	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	BUKO PANDAN
9	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	FINAL ANSWER
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 (DOLBY)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
8	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4	FINAL ANSWER
5 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ISANG PANAGINIP

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ISANG PANAGINIP

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	HUBO
Lords	TALK DIRTY TO ME
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	ISANG PANAGINIP

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	HEART IN ATLANTIC
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	FINAL ANSWEH

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	FINAL ANSWER

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2	ISANG PANAGINIP

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS)	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	FINAL ANSWER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	FINAL ANSWER
2 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS)	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)

1	THE OTHERS
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DOLBY)	ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (DTS)	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	FINAL ANSWER
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS)	THE OTHERS
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	FINAL ANSWER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2568

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	FINAL ANSWER
3	BURLESK KING

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	THE OTHERS
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS)	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	FINAL ANSWER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

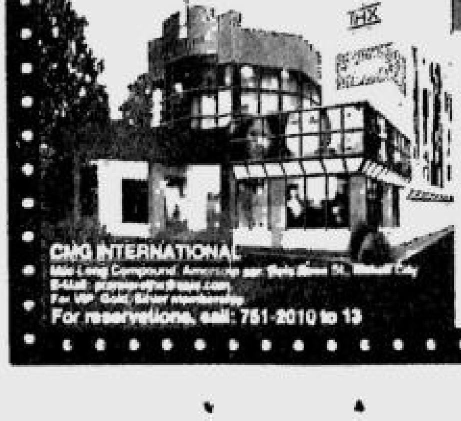
1	BUKO PANDAN
2	ON THE LINE
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (DTS ES)	FINAL ANSWER

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



CMG INTERNATIONAL
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For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 13

PREMIERE CINEMA THX NOW SHOWING

LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND
BLACK HAWK DOWN

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas
NOW SHOWING
e-mail : htc@nsteria-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA
632-9115-16 / 633-7841 loc. 279

THX

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	HEART IN ATLANTIS
7	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	FINAL ANSWER
9	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10	THE OTHERS

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 13

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	HEART IN ATLANTIS
3	FINAL ANSWER
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

METRO EAST
632-9118-16 / 633-7341

1	HEART IN ATLANTIS
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN THE OTHERS
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN LORD OF THE RINGS
4	ISANG PANAGINIP MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5	FINAL ANSWER

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	HEART IN ATLANTIS
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

IMUS
(046) 471-8186

1 7	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 8	HEART IN ATLANTIS
3	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	ISANG PANAGINIP

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453 / 0459

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	IRON LADIES
6	WALANG IWANAN

ILOILO
(033) 330-0077 / 0078

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BURLESK KING
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SISID / TAILS OF EROTIKA
ODEON	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ODEON-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
ROBEN	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	DON'T SAY A WORD / GHOST FROM MARS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
REMAR	BLACK HAWK DOWN
REMAR-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
B	BLACK HAWK DOWN
C	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUKO PANDAN
CINEMA-2	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
CINEMA-3	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-6	THE OTHERS
CINEMA-7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-8	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	BLACK HAWKDOWN
CINEMA-12	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-14	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
CINEMA-15	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-3	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-5	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-6	BLACK HAWK DOWN

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	FINAL ANSWER
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
8	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

SM CENTERPOINT
7140522 -7161416

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	THE OTHERS
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	FINAL ANSWER
7	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10	AMERICAN ADOBO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350140

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7	BLACK HAWK DOWN
8	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	AMERICAN ADOBO
12	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
6	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7	THE OTHERS
8	AMERICAN ADOBO
9	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10	LORD OF THE RINGS
11	FINAL ANSWER
12	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	BLACK HAWKDOWN
4	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
7	THE OTHERS
8	AMERICAN ADOBO
9	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10	ISANG PANAGINIP
11	FINAL ANSWER
12	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
3	FINAL ANSWER
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
10	LOR OF THE RINGS
11	THE OTHERS
12	BLACK HAWK DOWN

SM SOUTHMALL
8060036 • 8060782

1	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
2	THE OTHERS
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
9	FINAL ANSWER
10	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CITY CEBU
2313878

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	BUKO PANDAN
7	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	BUKO PANDAN
2	CLOSED
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	CLOSED
8	BURLESK KING

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	SUMMER CATCH
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CITY TUTUBAN
2514302

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	FINAL ANSWER
4	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CITY DAVAO
2974004

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	AMERICAN AOBO
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Winston in Concert at Padi's Point tonight

WINSTON in concert presents the country's top bands in a tie-up with Padi's Point, the country's leading restaurant and bar chain.

Bands to appear in "The Winston Concert series at Padi's Point" include The Dawn, Brownbeat All-Stars, True Faith, Wolfgang, Color It Red, and Barbie's Cradle, with the special participation of K24/7 with Shar, Fat Session, Divas, and Asciano.

Fans can catch their favorite bands playing their hit songs live at different Padi's Point locations every payday Friday beginning February 1st until May 3rd. All bands will be performing at selected Padi's Point venues: SM Manila, Las Piñas, Metropolis, Biñan, Araneta, and Mindanao Ave.

The series kicks off today at Padi's Las Piñas with Fat Session, SM Manila with The Dawn, Biñan with K24/7 with Shar, Mindanao Ave. with Color It Red, Araneta with Brownbeat All Stars and Alabang Metropolis with Wolfgang.

Winston in Concert will feature live performances by today's hottest music artists—a treat for music lovers who enjoy listening to their favorite tunes live and up close.

The "Winston Concert series at Padi's Point" is a project of Incus Productions Inc. For inquiries, please call 637-1836 or 37.

'Black Hawk Down' still up in cinemas

LOS ANGELES—Moviegoers remain on combat alert. The frenzied military thriller "Black Hawk Down" held the top spot at the box office for a second straight weekend, taking in $18.2 million.

The No. 2 slot shaped up as a photo finish between Cuba Gooding Jr.'s canine comedy "Snow Dogs" and pop singer Mandy Moore's weepy teen romance "A Walk to Remember," according to studio estimates Sunday.

Distributor Disney estimated "Snow Dogs" grossed $13.6 million in its second weekend, while Warner Bros. estimated "A Walk to Remember" debuted with $13.57 million. *AP*

AYALA MALLS ENTERTAINMENT

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD
1 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 KAHIT IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4 MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4
1 THE OTHERS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 AMERICAN ADOBO in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT
1 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4 PROMISES PROMISES FEB. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 - 8 PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 BLACK HAWK DOWN THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

The Ayala mall Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI

PHOTOWORLD MANILA 2002

VALENTINES DAY AT AYALA CENTER
Watch out for following Valentines shows:
- Shows at the Glorietta 4 Park
Feb. 11 / 6 pm
Vina Morales and Ana Fegi
Feb. 12 / 6 pm
Side A
- Shows at Greenbelt 2
Feb. 14
Ogie Alcasid
Feb. 15
Ariel Rivera

ALABANG

THE AYALA MALL EVENTS
This week's Events
Jan. 15-31
GRAND FIESTA SALE
Feb. 2
ART FOR PEACE
Feb. 2
MULLATO BAND SHOW
Feb. 3
MASSKARA TRIBE PARADE
4 PM - Town Plaza
Feb. 3
PEACE & UNITY THROUGH THE ARTS
6 PM - Activity Center
For inquiries please call ATC customer service at 842-2782

CEBU

CALENDAR AD
For the period of Feb. 1 to 3, 2002
Valentine Card Making & Cookie Decorating Contest
Feb. 3, 10 & 24, 2002
(3:30 PM, Activity Center)
USC Festival of the Arts
Feb. 1, 2002
(4:00 PM, Activity Center)
Fashion Show w/ Latin Band
Feb. 1, 2002
(6:30 PM, Lagoon Area)

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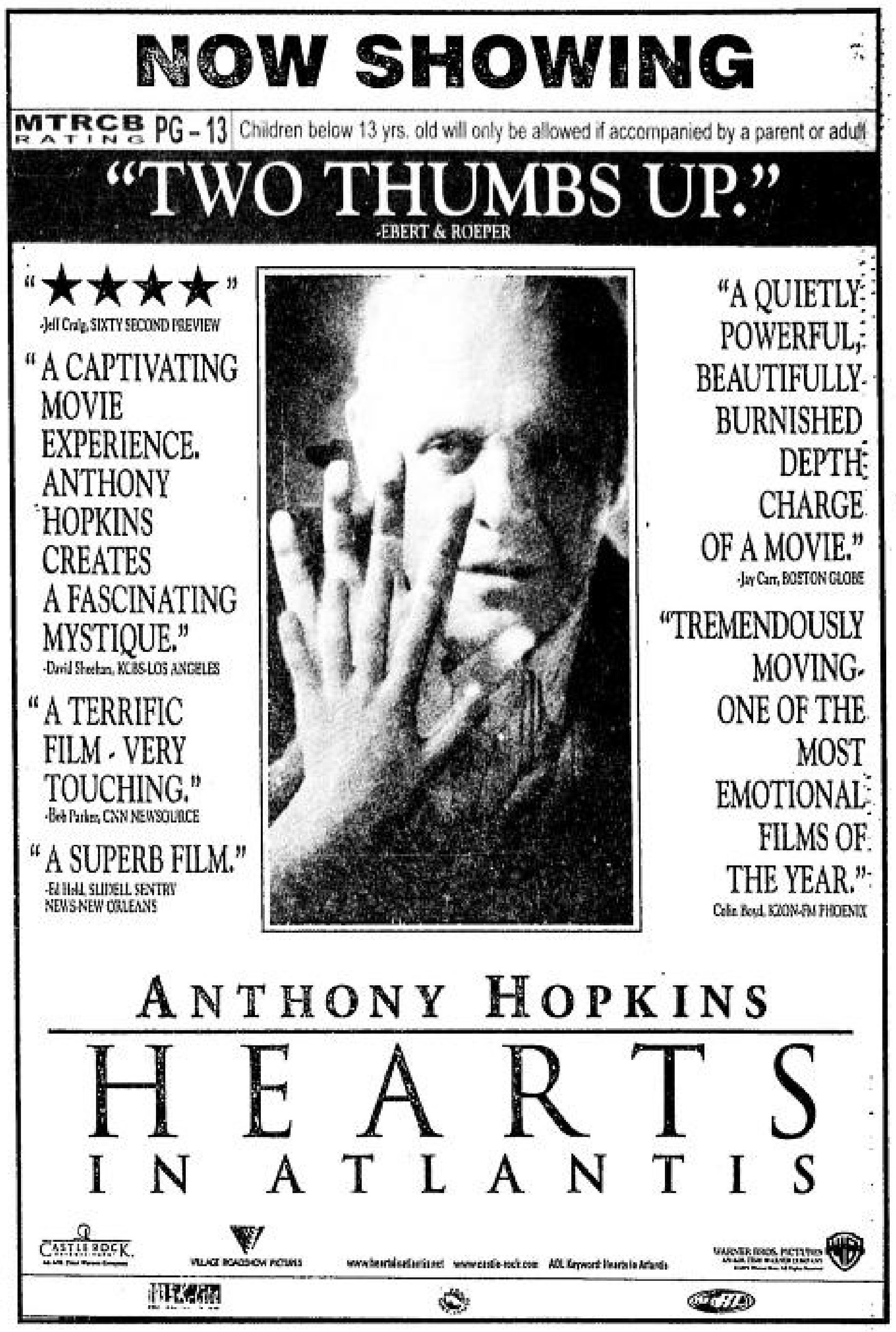
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"★★★★" -Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW
"A CAPTIVATING MOVIE EXPERIENCE. ANTHONY HOPKINS CREATES A FASCINATING MYSTIQUE." -David Sheehan, KCBS-LOS ANGELES
"A TERRIFIC FILM - VERY TOUCHING." -Bob Parker, CNN NEWSOURCE
"A SUPERB FILM." -Ed Hall, SLIDELL SENTRY NEWS-NEW ORLEANS
"A QUIETLY POWERFUL, BEAUTIFULLY BURNISHED DEPTH CHARGE OF A MOVIE." -Jay Carr, BOSTON GLOBE
"TREMENDOUSLY MOVING. ONE OF THE MOST EMOTIONAL FILMS OF THE YEAR." Collin Boyd, KZON-FM PHOENIX
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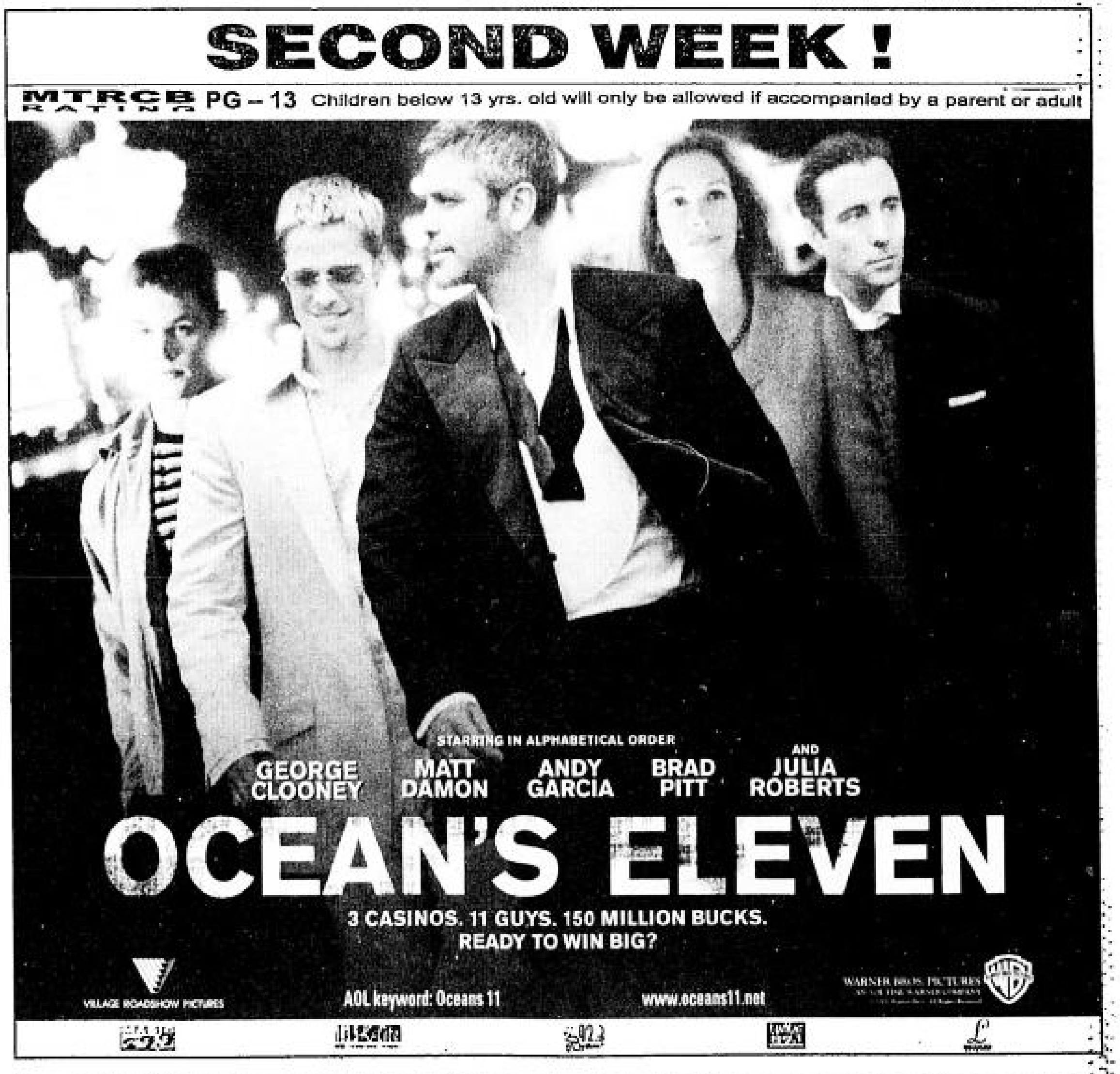
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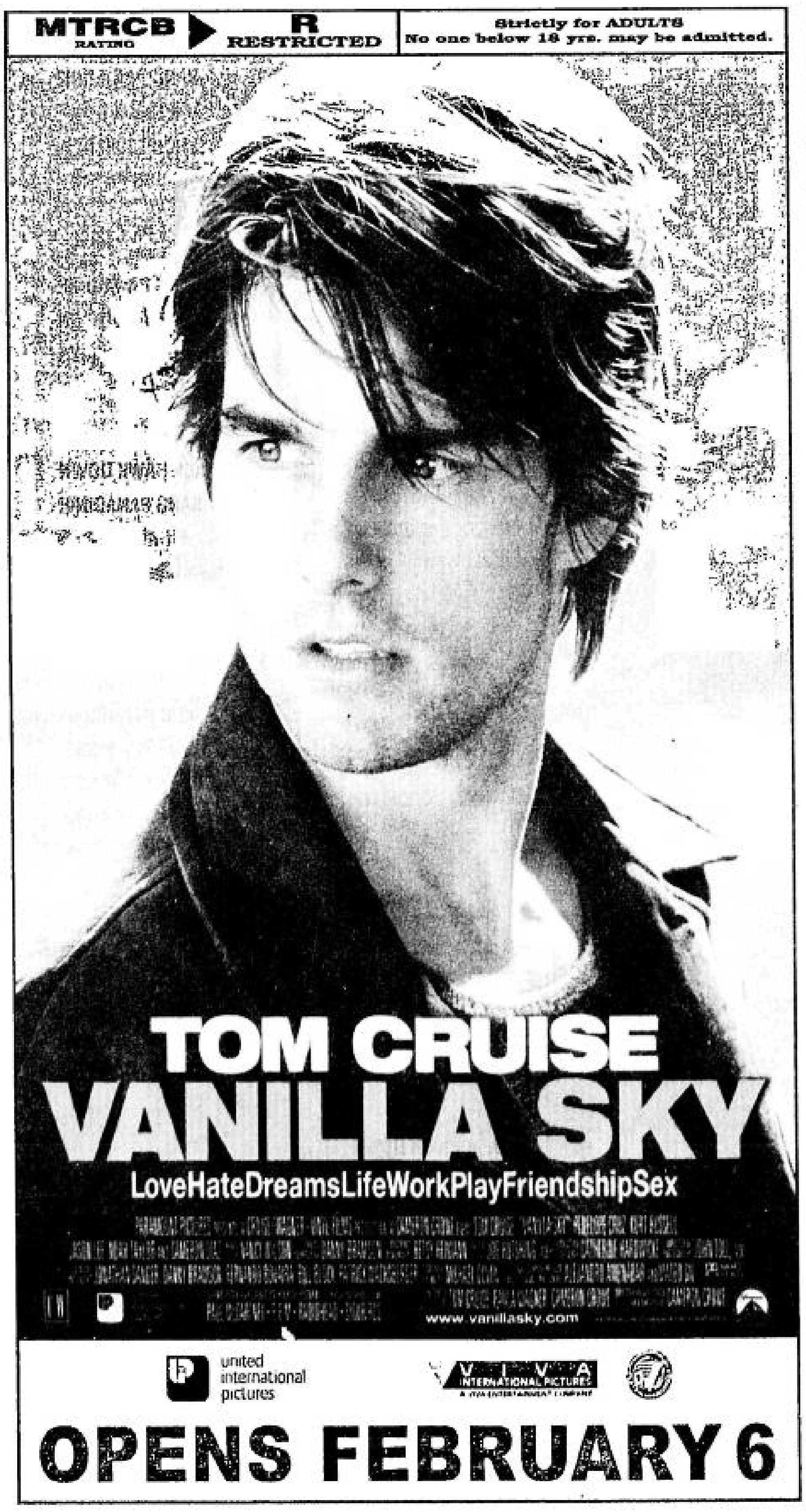
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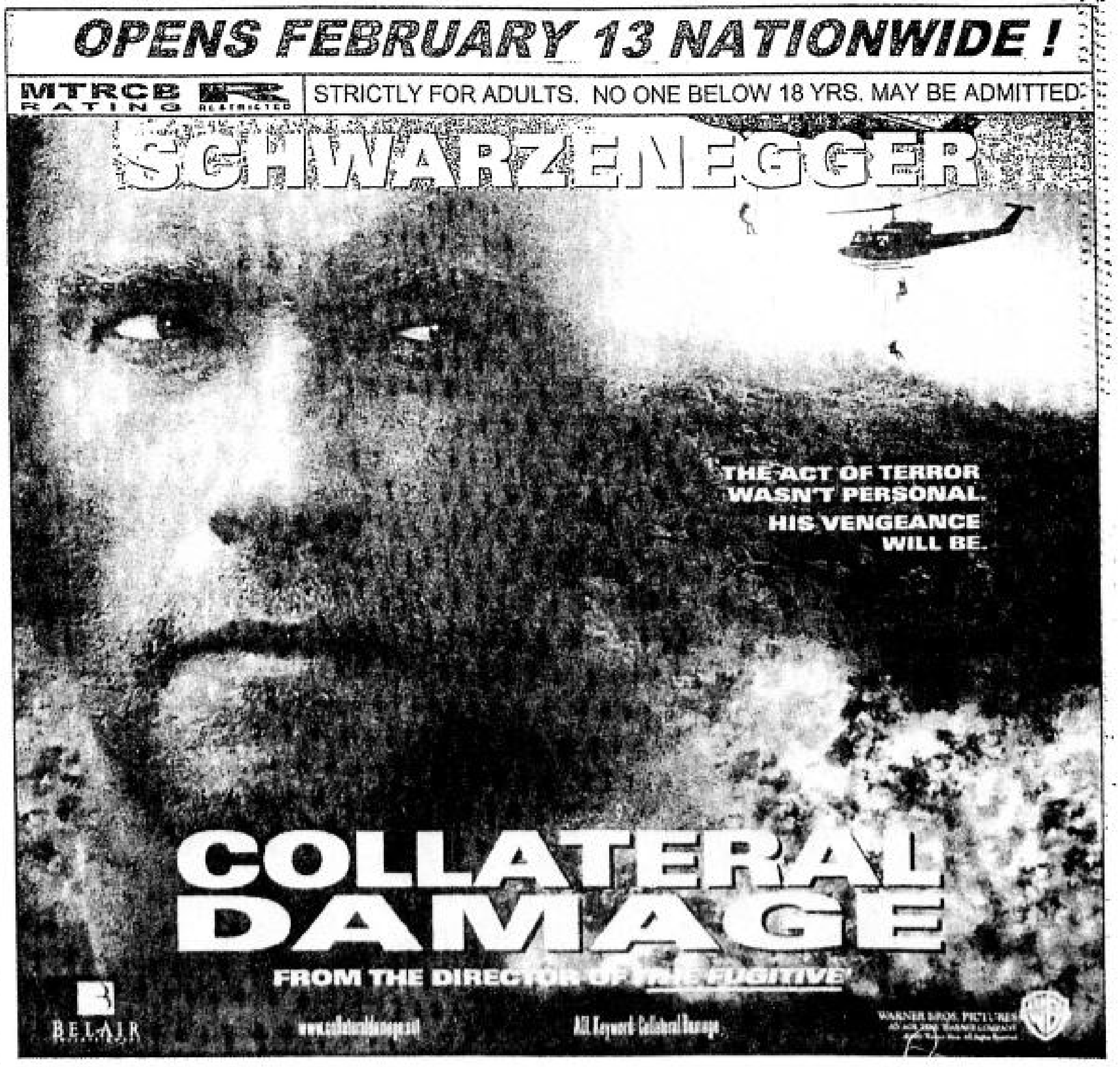
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An evening with a renaissance man

By Fred Samantela
Contributor

VERY few places are worth enduring more than two hours of car travel. But recently, we endured just that to go to Pandi town in Bulacan to meet old friends.

Pandi can be reached only through Bocaue and Santa-maria towns. It is the town before Norza-garay.

The Bulakeños are warm, industrious, very competitive and serve very good food.

We had expected to have lunch there but our hosts were delayed. We spent time going around the place, a huge property with two houses—one, still unfinished, bigger than the other.

The finished one was air-conditioned and had an attic. I didn't see the need for air conditioning because the air was very cool, and got cooler as evening approached. The house did not need curtains because the property, which had a winding driveway, was filled with huge trees that provided privacy. Huge imported live chickens were in a fenced portion. The place reminded me of Mt. Vernon, the house of George and Martha Washington by the Potomac River. That house is small but the property is also huge.

The Pandi place also included other amenities like a pool and basketball court. We went to the town proper to buy some things and when we returned, our hosts had arrived from Manila—Cesar Montano and his lady love Sunshine Cruz.

It was actually a feast. Cesar had won the best actor award in December's Metro Manila Film Festival and he decided to hold a family reunion. Sunshine's family was also invited.

Michelle Aldana, who is also from Pandi, graciously helped Sunshine and Cesar welcome their guests. Michelle lives in a big house in the town where she had her own family reunion only the day before.

Cesar, as is widely known, felt very strongly about "Bagong Buwan" not being honored as the best picture in the December filmfest. Cesar won his best actor award for his performance in the Marilou Diaz Abaya movie. But whatever he felt that day, he tried not to dampen the mood of the guests.

Cesar likes to build and design his own houses and he is rather good at it. He also paints, plays the guitar, sings and makes recordings, a real renaissance man.

For someone who grew up in a hard neighborhood, he has gone far and achieved a lot, becoming refined and cultured in the process.

Michelle buoyed up everyone's spirits with her anecdotes of her days as an actress and of her life in Germany now. She and her German husband Cristophe have one child.

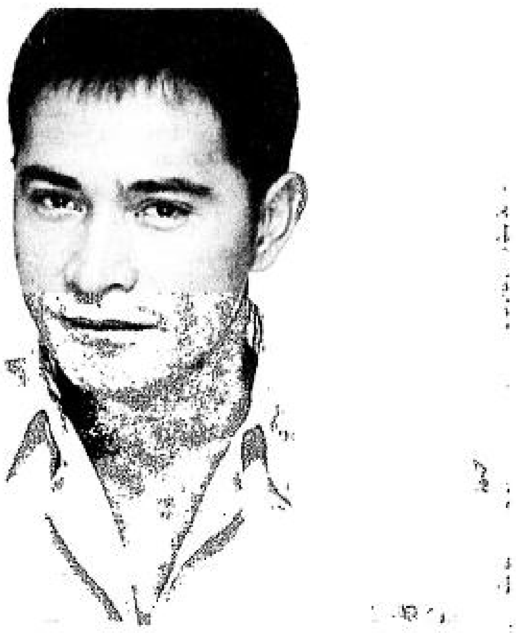
Big dogs swarmed the place, but they were trained dogs, according to Cesar.

The cool air was perfect for wine. We sipped some Cuvee.

The food on the buffet was excellent and many guests went back for seconds. The roasted calf was succulent.

Cesar tried to poll the guests about what he had said in his speech at the awards night, but he didn't get much reaction. So he focused on the guests instead and made sure that they had more wine, dessert, etc. Conversations sparkled with laughter and warmth.

Sunshine had grown slimmer and more beautiful. She spoke only when Cesar asked her a question and she gazed lovingly at him throughout the night.



MAN of many parts. Cesar Montano designs houses, paints, sings, plays the guitar.

Crowe, Spacek lead race for actors' union plums

LOS ANGELES—Australian star Russell Crowe on Tuesday won a nomination as best actor in the Screen Actors' Guild (SAG) Awards, which usually foretell who will take home the best actor Oscar in March.

Crowe's film, "A Beautiful Mind," the psychological journey of a troubled genius, and "In the Bedroom," starring Sissy Spacek, dominated the nominations, winning three each including best film and best lead actors.

But while the nominations generally reflected an emerging trend of honoring the two films in Tinseltown's crowded awards season, a notable snub was dealt to Nicole Kidman, who failed to win a best actress nod for "Moulin Rouge."

CROWE is favored to win the SAG award

Spacek was nominated as best leading actress for her portrayal of a distraught mother and wife in "Bedroom," facing competition from Jennifer Connelly for "A Beautiful Mind," Halle Berry for "Monster's Ball," Judi Dench for "Iris" and Renee Zellweger for the Brit-comedy "Bridget Jones' Diary."

Connelly picked up a best supporting actress award at the Golden Globes for her role as math genius John Forbes Nash's wife Alicia.

Crowe, who played Nash, and Spacek last week both won Globes for best dramatic actor awards, making them, and their films, the hottest contenders for the 2002 Oscars on March 24.

Crowe faces stiff competition at the SAG awards from Kevin Kline for "Life as a House," Sean Penn for "I Am Sam," Denzel Washington for his role in the police drama "Training Day" and Tom Wilkinson, who played the anguished father in "In the Bedroom."

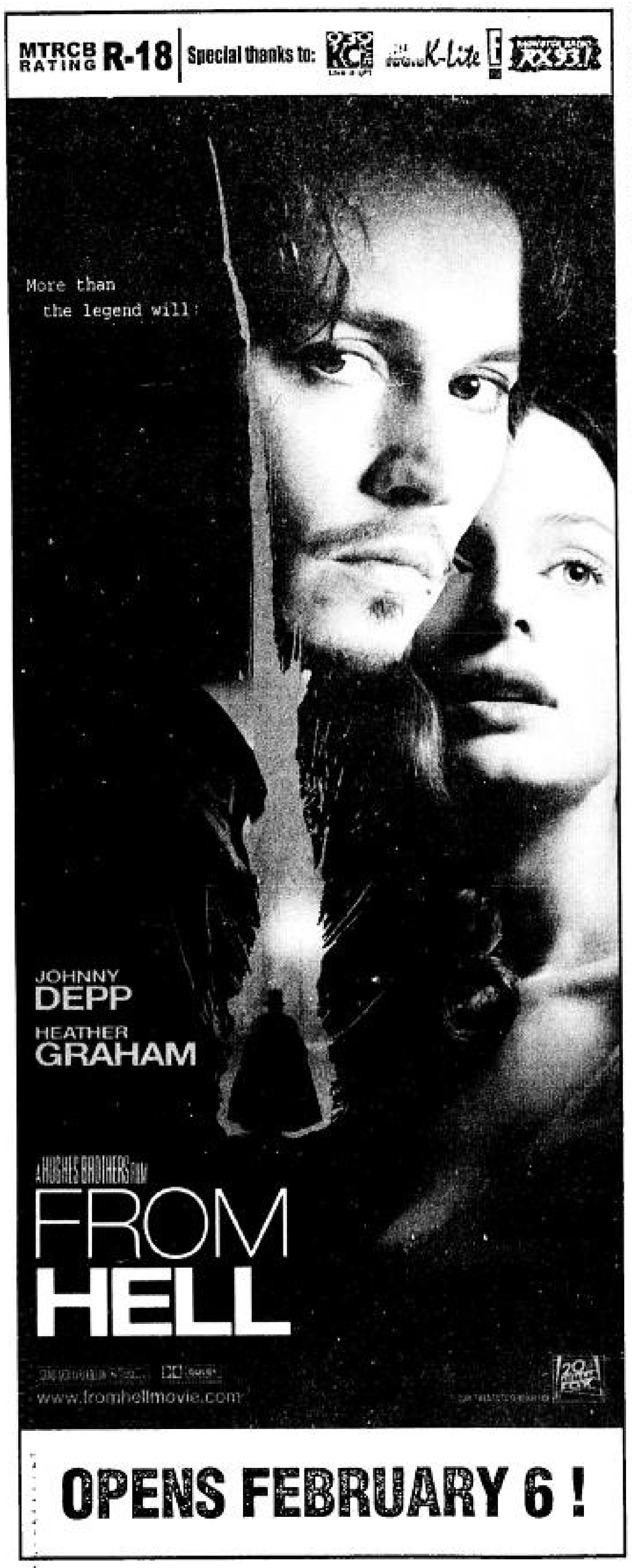
The SAG awards have proved an accurate barometer for the most prized honor in Hollywood, the Academy Awards, with six out of the seven SAG best actor winners picking up the best actor Oscar statuette.

The only exception was last year, when Benicio del Toro won best actor at the SAG awards—which reward only actors and not producers or directors—but went on to win the best supporting actor Oscar for "Traffic."

Oscar winners are picked by 4,200 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, who are all industry insiders, with each category chosen by specialist committees, including many SAG members in the actors' categories.

In the best supporting actors category, SAG's randomly-selected panel picked a quiver of Britons as its nominees.

They were: Jim Broadbent for his role as British novelist Dame Iris Murdoch's husband in "Iris;" Ian McKellen for his portrayal of Gandalf in "The Lord of the Rings;" and Ben Kingsley as Don Logan in "Sexy Beast." **AFP**



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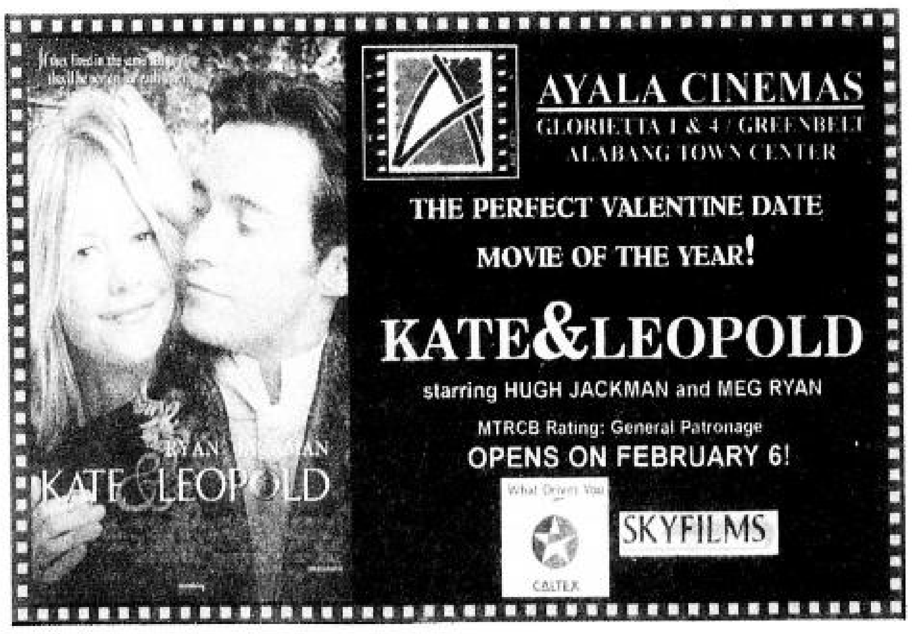
OCEAN'S ELEVEN - P13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS - P13 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	BLACK HAWK DOWN - P13 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.



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KATE & LEOPOLD
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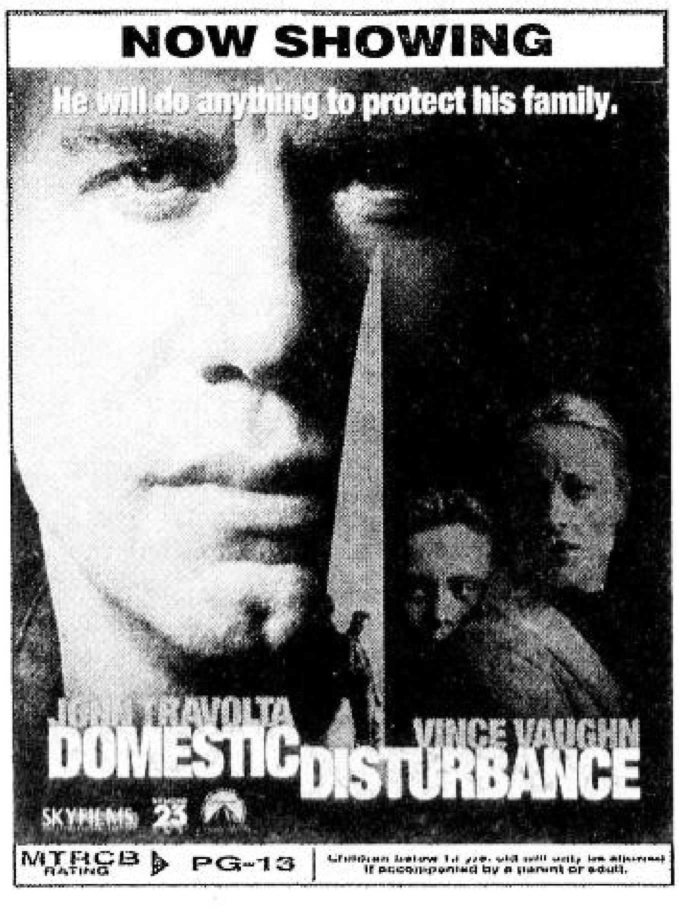

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Comedy of quiz show errors—and colors

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST week, we witnessed an escalating series of mistakes on a local quiz show that could very well end up as a contemporary classic of "unintended comedy." For those of you who didn't savor the series of errors first-hand, here's the next best thing:

The quiz had a theme, with all of its questions related to the proper use of colors in a series of idiomatic expressions. The quiz show contestants were asked to fill in the blanks by providing the right color for each idiomatic expression.

The first error was not really all that bad. Asked to give the color for the idiom, "____ with envy," the contestant answered "Violet." "Violet with envy"? Hmm, how very **Elizabeth Taylor** . . .

Next: What is the idiom used to describe somebody becoming angry? "Seeing ____"? "Seeing green!"—No, red!

Things quickly got funnier and funnier, as the contestant betrayed his being utterly color-blind:

"Kung mahiyain ka, tatawagin kang 'Shrinking ____?" Contestant: "Shrinking blue!" Wheee!

"Kung ikaw ay isang member ng royalty, *sinasabi na ikaw ay isang* ___ blood."

Contestant: "White blood!" How clueless (and color-blind) could you get?

Final question—and (comedy) answer: *"Pag ayaw mong mapahiya, nagsasabi ka na lang ng* ___ lie." Contestant: "Black lie!"

"Blackeye" would be more like it!

Five mistakes, all in a row? Inadvertent comedy is alive and in the puce of health on local TV!

Cruise, Depp to shoot films here?

IT'S been a long time since big Hollywood productions were shot in the Philippines, but reports have it that negotiations are underway for the filming here of two major movies, separately starring **Tom Cruise** and **Johnny Depp**.

Cruise's project, "Fertig," is a war movie about the exploits of a famous American commander, while Depp's starrer is reported to be titled "The Great Raid."

Will the filming deals push through? Most likely—if assurances can be given that security at the shooting locales will be so tight that the visiting film people's safety is *absolutely* assured.

Dina at 40

ON the local entertainment scenes, female stars are said to be "in trouble" when they hit their 30s, since show biz fans here are notoriously pro-youth and anti-maturity. And, when the actresses hit 40—goodbye! (as **Edu Manzano** would tersely say on "The Weakest Link").

But **Dina Bonnevie** is turning out to be a dazzling exception to this desultory rule. She's just marked her 40th birthday, and her acting career is booming, and zooming.

Dina may have lost her TV talk show, but she still does a lot of work on television, and her film career is going great guns.

Last December, she starred in "Tatarin," and in January, she topbilled "American Adobo." It is hoped that she can do two more movies this year.

What accounts for Dina's abiding success? She's learned a lot from living, but she still looks, thinks and feels young—well, younger than her actual age, at least.

And yet, Dina isn't loath to play mother roles, as she did in "Tatarin." Nor does she hide the fact that her children are now young adults who have launched their own show biz careers.

Dina wants viewers to like her for what she is, 40 years of age and all, and her fans don't find that hard to do because, as Dina starts into her fifth decade, there's still a lot about her to like.

After not doing films for a long time, Donita is back as a mute

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SINCE **Donita Rose** started working as a VJ for MTV Asia, she has not been doing movies. Except for GMA 7's "Larawan" series last year, she didn't take acting assignments.

Three years ago, she appeared in an international film, "Legacy," with "Baywatch" star **David Hasselhoff**. When the role of a deaf, mute and blind girl in **Lav Diaz**'s "Hesus Rebolusyonaryo" was offered her, Donita did not let it go.

Diaz describes Donita's role as a visual counterpoint to the film's highly visionary premise. Donita stars with **Mark Anthony Fernandez** in the action-drama set nine years into the future.

"I wanted to start off with something I knew I could handle, but I wanted it to be a very good film," Donita says. "When I was told Lav Diaz would direct it, I got excited because I know he's into artsy films. Besides, I want to help Mark in his movie."

Donita was deglamorized and was made to wear poor-girl clothes. She also had to look tanned since she is supposed to be a girl from the province.

"In a way, it was easier because I didn't have to think about what I'd wear," she says. She didn't have to brush up on her Tagalog since her character is mute.

"It's great to be able to act again," she says.

DONITA Rose. Deglamorized in her latest film.

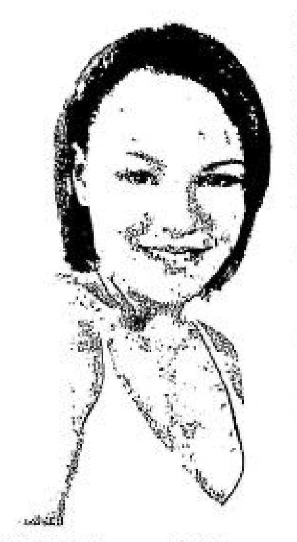
Shaky relationship

MATET de Leon doesn't complain as far as her career, lovelife, friends and siblings are concerned.

She has a steadily rising career on TV and in movies. She is a mainstay on the ABS-CBN soap "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan." Her latest starrer is "May Pag-ibig Pa Kaya?" with **Judy Ann Santos, Luis Alandy, Gladys Reyes** and **Vhong Navarro**.

Matet has a boyfriend of two years, **Harold Macasero**. "The longest time we did not talk to each other was two hours," she offers. "We broke up a number of times but up to now, *kami pa rin*."

Matet says she is surrounded by supportive friends and ever-loving siblings. "*Ate* **Lotlot (De Leon)** is my best friend," she says of her elder sister. "Even when she has a family of her own, she's always there for me."



MATET. No complaints about her career and lovelife.

But she has a mouthful to say about her mom, **Nora Aunor**, and their tumultuous relationship.

"The only thing that's not okay in my life now is my relationship with my mom," Matet grants. "*Okay na sana kami* after her concert last November. We started texting each other again. But now, it's shaky again. We don't even talk."

Matet is annoyed that her mom hasn't given up on **John Rendez**, the superstar's boyfriend for 16 years now.

"I was only two when I started seeing him in our house," Matet says. "My mom has sacrificed a lot for him. I hope she wakes up soon and realizes that the guy is not really good for her."

Now 18, Matet became a drug dependent at 14 and she left their house at 15. She was also reported to have had a miscarriage when she was 16.

But Matet has learned to weather the storms in her life. She now lives independently in a Quezon City pad, which she furnished from her show biz earnings. She denies that she and Harold are now living together.

"I live with a maid and a dog," she says.

Brash Young Cinema

MY FRIEND and former officemate **Susan de Guzman** and I met young film and music buff **Joey Fernandez**, 21, who put up his own media company, Brash Young Cinema, in the basement of S&L (Unisys) Building in Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Every Wednesday night, Joey holds a free screening of movies, usually alternative cinema or foreign language films. He doesn't charge for the screening, but viewers can make a voluntary donation to his fledgling Brash Young Cinema, at least for the electricity.

He also sells beer, softdrinks, popcorn and other snack items during the screening.

Joey is the younger brother of our friend **Yvette Fernandez**, former Manila Times writer who is now based in New York, where she is a newscaster for the Bloomberg Channel. Its owner is New York City Mayor **Mike Bloomberg**.

For screening schedule, visit the website brashyoungcinema.tripod.com or e-mail joeypogi@i-manila.com.ph. You can also text Joey at 0917-3494679.

A study in contrast

(From page A26)

The first question was what our favorite *teleserye* was. I said I almost fanatically followed "Pangako sa 'Yo," "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggang," and "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka."

Korina said she rarely watched any television. I was amazed because in our house, the TV is only turned off when we're asleep.

We were asked what books we liked, and I said that **Harper Lee**'s "To Kill a Mockingbird" was a favorite because **Atticus Finch**'s idealism reminded me so much of my dad's, and the inquisitiveness of Scout was a mirror reflection of my own innate curiosity and *kakulitan*. I also said I loved anything by **James Patterson**, especially the **Alex Cross** series.

Korina said she rarely read fiction, preferring biographies, but "Memoirs of a Geisha" was the only novel she'd read recently and she loved that book.

It got funnier when we were asked what daily habit we had that we really loved to do. I said that it was a ritual for me to light at least three Nirvana candles in my room: one for love, one for protection from evil, and one for peace and harmony.

Korina said what she loved most was "getting even with my enemies."

We were also asked about make-up. Those who read me regularly know how make-up-obsessed I am. I shared the fact that I have about 60 tubes of lipstick and lip liners. Korina said she only has three shades of lipsticks and her make-up bag contains the barest minimum. She even mentioned that she used only one shade of eyeshadow and has been using it for as long as she can remember.

If you watch the interview, you'll see just how open I am to frankly answering anything under the sun, regardless of how personal. Korina, understandably was more guarded, at times evasive.

She said it might surprise most to discover that she does have a personal life, precisely because she really guards her privacy. In my case all aspects of my life are truly part of an open book.

It surprised me to realize that I'm just five and a half years her junior because she really has a strong, no-nonsense aura of firmness and maturity. On my part, I realize that I haven't outgrown my childlike candor and enthusiasm.

Our manner of conducting ourselves during the interview also has a lot to do with how we project ourselves on our respective shows. We do try to positively reinforce our respective images that viewers are most accustomed to.

Korina, when presenting the news and discussing matters of national importance, has to be credible and authoritative. In hosting a game show and a show biz oriented talk show, I try my best to empathize, be gracious, open, non-threateningly knowledgeable, effusive and amusing.

I do genuinely like her, because Korina is a sweet and supportive friend. I think we get along because we're both uniquely irrepressible, we do share the same work ethic and the same passion for our careers.

Most of all, we do click because she does regard me as a little sister, and she knows that I not only respect her, but I'm genuinely fond of her because I've gotten to know her softer, nurturing, and humorous side.

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Jack Black will keep you in stitches when he falls in love with a less-than-perfect Gwyneth Paltrow.
FEB 12
7:30 PM TUESDAY GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA 6
FEB 19
Oscar winner Russell Crowe journeys from madness to self-discovery in this touching biographical sketch.
7:30 PM - TUESDAY GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA 6

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ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

A study in contrast

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I TAPED at Fernwood Garden last Tuesday for Talk TV (the episode airs today at 10:30 a.m. on ABS-CBN). I'm not fond of going to aviaries due to an irrational fear that the bigger birds will scratch me or peck at me. Maybe it's from having an over-active imagination or just an acknowledgment that I'm prone to having the weirdest accidents and I think it wouldn't be impossible for a bird to suddenly bite off my nose.

But despite my not being a bird lover, I fell in love with the ambience and set-up of Fernwood. For the past year and a half, this beautifully designed garden has been a favorite alternative venue for wedding receptions. The place is conveniently located within a village in Tandang Sora in Quezon City.

The property has so many different plants, trees, and vines growing in the back of an old, 1950s home. There are mini-waterfalls and a carp-rich fishpond, with swans and ducks. You get the feeling that you're inside an enchanted forest.

Best of all, there are strategically placed, very high protective half-domes all around. You have the tranquility and lushness of a garden without the fear of unexpected showers, and there's the added feature that the sun's harmful rays don't end up directly in your eyes and skin.

The place even has mist machines all around which pump in a cool, fog-like mist. They add to the exotic allure of the place and also help keep the temperature pleasant.

I taped for Talk TV together with TV Patrol's Korina Sanchez. We enjoyed our stint as guests because it was during the "quick talk" segment when we were being asked about "what we love" that we both realized that we were really so different from each other.

A STUDY/ A25

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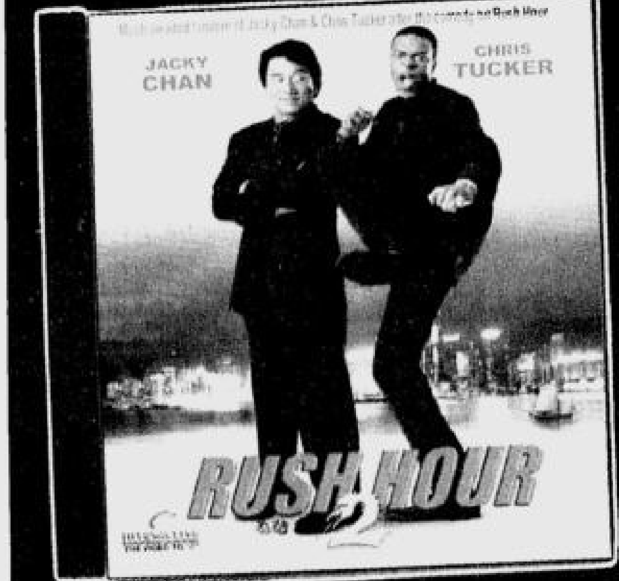

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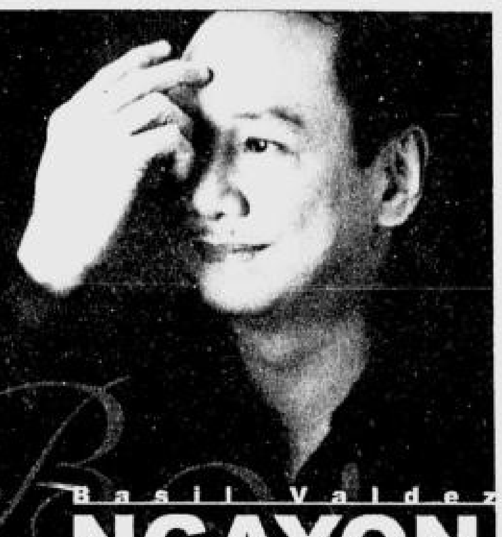

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Stocks surge to highest in 6 months

By Doris C. Dumlao

STOCKS surged to a six-month high yesterday on broad-based buying, closing up 4.19 percent as the market cheered the better-than-expected gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 3.4 percent for 2001.

The main index jumped 54.83 points to close at 1,361.94 points, the highest level the market reached since July 31, 2001.

Market turnover rose to P988.92 million from Wednesday's P540.47 million. Most stocks ended in the positive territory, with gainers in a four-to-one majority.

Traders said the market was suddenly swamped with positive news, with US Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan indicating the outlook for a US economic recovery this year was brightening. The United States is the Philippines' biggest export market.

"This is the incentive the market has been waiting for. It gives more confidence to investors to come in and invest," said Teresa Lee Jahrling of Tower Securities Inc.

"All the positive news are starting to really excite investors. It's hard to stop a train full of money . . . foreign interest is coming back," said Astro del Castillo, director of the Association for Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

Traders also said the market welcomed hints by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas of a further easing of interest rates despite the decision of the US Federal Reserve to maintain its own rates.

First Orient Securities trader Rolando Pineda said the influx of foreign funds had likewise encouraged local investors to commit funds to local equities.

"Some private institutions and banks are pumping in new funds to the market. The confidence is returning and this is backed by improving corporate fundamentals," said Pineda.

Traders said the start of the US-Philippine joint military exercises yesterday was an added shot in the arm for the market.

"The first batch of buying was when the Americans started to come, we're always haunted by these kidnappings in the South and a solution to that problem is welcome," said Enrique Santa Ana, associate director for sales of DBS-Vickers Securities.

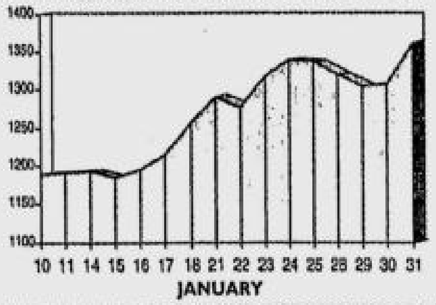
A slew of better-than-expected earnings results also helped lift the market and shorten its correction phase.

The market was likely to sustain its rally in the coming sessions, as the improved market volume suggested funds were now flowing back, Santa Ana said.

"From the looks of it, this might be a sustainable rise because there's new money coming in," Santa Ana said.

With the market still buoyed by fresh foreign inflows, traders said the rally would likely continue and the main-share index would break out into the 1,400 level very soon.

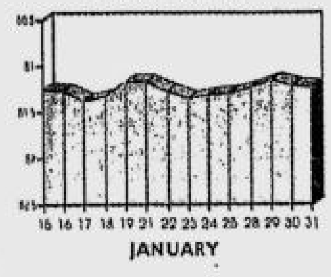
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.235 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 31, 2002

¥132.94 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 31, 2002

GOLD: $281.70/282.20
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 31, 2002

JAN. 31, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.160093	1.000000	51.2010
Japan	Yen	0.008731	0.007526	0.3853
United Kingdom	Pound	1.642111	1.415500	72.4750
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.148745	0.128218	6.5649
Switzerland	Franc	0.678854	0.585172	29.9614
Canada	Dollar	0.730767	0.629921	32.2526
Singapore	Dollar	0.632306	0.545048	27.9070
Australia	Dollar	0.587389	0.506329	25.9246
Bahrain	Dinar	3.077333	2.652661	135.8189
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.309358	0.266667	13.6536
Brunei	Dollar	0.631000	0.543922	27.8494
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026407	0.022763	1.1655
UAE	Dirham	0.315929	0.272331	13.9436
Korea	Won	0.000892	0.000769	0.0394
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.862000	44.1353
Brazil	Real	0.477208	0.411353	21.0617
Denmark	Kroner	0.134723	0.116131	5.9460
India	Rupee	0.023954	0.020648	1.0572
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.305288	0.263158	13.4740
Mexico	New Peso	0.126966	0.109445	5.6037
New Zealand	Dollar	0.481966	0.415455	21.2717
Norway	Kroner	0.127704	0.110081	5.6363

Opposition to vehicle tax revision mounting

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry and car assemblers are opposing the plan of the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue to lift the exemption from excise taxes of vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 or more.

Finance Undersecretary Antonio Bernardo said General Motors, Ford Motors Corp. and Toyota Motors Philippines have asked the government to defer the issuance of the BIR regulation until Congress has amended the excise taxation scheme on motor vehicles.

"The industry felt that we should wait for Congress to amend the excise tax scheme on motor vehicles and redefine the automobiles at the same time," he noted.

The BIR was planning to issue the new regulation soon to raise at least P500 million in additional taxes this year. Bernardo estimated that the redefinition of automobiles could even boost state coffers by about P5 billion this year.

The issuance of the new regulation, however, had been put on hold as the trade department and car companies lobbied against the implementation of the policy.

Bernardo noted that even the DTI had asked the DOF to defer the implementation of the revenue regulation until it had consulted with the car industry players.

OPPOSITION/ B2

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Banks' NPLs seen to hit 21%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE ECONOMIC slowdown and a sluggish credit growth are expected to further jack up the bad loans burden of the local banking system to as much as 21 percent of its total loan portfolio this year, according to American investment bank Salomon Smith Barney.

As of November last year, the banks' non-performing loans or NPL level was at 18.76 percent. Salomon Smith Barney officials said the level could improve to 17 percent in December.

"We expect the NPLs to rise further hitting 20.7 percent by August this year. This poses a downside risk to bank earnings and valuations," said the global financial group in its latest review of the Philippine banking system.

Salomon Smith Barney officials yesterday said that despite the expected improvement in the NPL level in December, the prospects for this year remained dim.

As of November, the banks' bad loans amounted to P291 billion.

Non-performing loans refer to borrowings whose principals or interests remained unpaid for 90 days or more after the due date. A loan was considered past due if it was unpaid after a month.

Bradford Ti, Salomon Smith Barney vice president for Asia Pacific operations, said that the investment bank's NPL projections for Philippine banks were based on slow growth of local economy during the first half of the year.

"Lower interest rates amid easing monetary policies should limit the risk of a systemic breakdown but will not automatically result in loan growth," said the bank in its review.

From a contraction in loans last year, Salomon Smith Barney believes that credit will improve by about 4 percent this year.

"Much will depend on how the asset management companies will be able to operate this year," said Ti. He stressed that the incentives to be offered by the pending legislation on AMCs or Special Purpose Asset Vehicles will be the deciding factor for these groups to buy out the banks' bad loans.

The Salomon Smith Barney official complained that bad loans were always under stated by the banks. He said Philippine banks should start dealing with these in a more transparent manner.

Also, Ti cautioned the Philippine government against helping a particular AMC group. This was apparently in reaction to a government statement that indicated it might forge a tie-up with Ceberus Ltd. in addressing the mortgage portfolio of the state.

"The government must focus on its campaign to keep the budget deficit within the target," said Ti.

"Local banks should focus on improving credit while AMCs should focus on acquiring and disposing these bad assets," he added.

BCDA's Singson resigns

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Rogelio Singson on Wednesday confirmed he has resigned as chair of the government-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority. His resignation takes effect in March.

In confirming his plan to leave the BCDA, Singson made no mention of having any conflict with the Macapagal administration, which he served for more than a year.

He said he simply wanted to return to the private sector.

Sources said Singson was expected to assume the position of president of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., the developer of the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Singson worked in various management capacities with the BCDA since 1991, the year the government began preparing the blueprint for the development and conversion of Clark Air Base in Pampanga, Subic Naval Base in Zambales and other military bases of the United States in the country into special economic zones.

Under Republic Act No. 7227 or the Bases Conversion Law, the BCDA was also tasked to convert several military camps like Fort Bonifacio into commercial enclaves.

Singson, as chair of the BCDA under both the Estrada and Macapagal administrations, initiated the "connectivity concept" of Clark and Subic, making their development complementary by matching resources like seaports and airports and preparing the multi-billion-peso "Superfund" for infrastructure and investment growth.

Clark sources said the contenders for Singson's post were Rufo Colayco; Renato Diaz, presidential assistant for Northern Luzon; CDC chair Rizalino Navarro, and former Tarlac Vice Gov. Herminio Aquino.

On the motion of Pampanga Board Member Crisostomo Garbo, the provincial board endorsed Diaz for the post.

They said Diaz, a former congressman of Nueva Ecija, has actively promoted the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark and the tourism potentials of Northern Luzon.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Department of Agrarian Reform
Adjudication Board (DARAB)
Annex Bldg., DAR Central Office Cmpd., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a Decision in **DARAB Case No. 9123** (Reg. Case No. IV-La-0452-95) entitled **Jose B. Gaynilo, Lourdes B. Gaynilo, Corazon Vda. de Gaynilo** and **Raymund P. Gaynilo** was promulgated by the DAR Adjudication Board, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City on February 7, 2002.

Counsels and parties to this case particularly **Corazon Vda de. Gaynilo** and **Raymund P. Gaynilo** whose last known address was **Burgos St., Cabuyao, Laguna** are hereby advised to get a copy of the said decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of the posting of this notice, without any Petition for Review being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision to this case shall become final and executory.

January 28, 2002, Diliman, Quezon City.

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

February 1 & 8, 2002 -- Inquirer

Memo to the SSS president

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

MADAM Cora de la Paz, thank you, first of all, for that gracious gesture of giving me a little respect as a long paying and aggrieved SSS member and media practitioner, by taking time out to break bread with me and Congressman Villarama. Even as you have an army of public affairs staff in the SSS, you deemed it imperative that you, the president and CEO yourself, should give importance to a member who has been writing columns about the SSS. Thank you also for gracing PMAP's induction as our honored guest last Wednesday.

It would be unfortunate though if the issues I raised would not be followed up with concrete actions, considering that you substantially took my words and believed in my cause, subject to some caveat that you specified. For I wouldn't be dazzled, Madam, with the SSS annual report prepared by former CEO Arellano and his PR packaging department, nor would I stop with the general views expressed in your speech. We need direct answers to specific questions.

For whom is SSS?

As I told you, Madam, the SSS members, numbering about 24 million, are compelled by law to part with our hard-earned money every payday to support the SSS' operations, its adventurous forays in the stock market as well as the fantastic salaries and perks of your lucky executives and staff.

That being so, may we know where does the SSS' loyalty lie? To us, your contributors or to the President who appointed you and your commissioners? In case Malacañang orders the SSS to extend a loan to a crony, would you obey even if in doing so, you will surely jeopardize the state insurance fund? Would you say no to the President and tell her this is the people's money being entrusted to you as fiduciary trustee? In the SMC board, which interest do you uphold: that of the SSS or San Miguel's?

Can we still trust the SSS?

Given the track record of the SSS under the previous dispensation, could the SSS members still trust you, guys? The SSS neither confirmed nor denied Newsbreak's exposé that the SSS lost P21.5 billion in reckless stock ventures. Why? Are you bound by the vow of Omerta? Can the contributors rely on the trustees who bought various stocks for P37 billion only to see their values shrink in no time to a meager P16 billion? Aren't your stock purchasers the weakest links?

Why has the SSS remained mute on the issues about the P6.4 billion losses in PLDT, P2.8 billion in Meralco, P1.4 billion in Union Bank and P12 billion alleged losses in PCI Equitable? Since under the law, the Republic guarantees the solvency of the SSS fund, are you guys gonna put the burden again on the taxpayers? Do you mean that our money, raised from our contributions as SSS members, that you threw away via risky transactions will be replaced by us also as taxpayers. *Napakasakit naman,* Madam. *Di ba, harap harapang panlalamang na yan?*

SSS, too top heavy?

While the employers whom you compel to contribute are helplessly saving costs via retrenchments and layoffs, isn't the SSS too overmanned and too heavy at the top? Don't you have five EVPs, six SVPs, 20 VPs and 30 AVPs? *Talo pa ninyo ang* San Miguel. You don't rake profits like SMC does but your cadre of top guns surpasses the nation's top 10 firms. You know that Ma'am as an SMC director and as the Cunanan accounting firm managing partner for so long.

Because of this bloated SSS bureaucracy, do we pay for the multiple duplication of services that are hardly delivered? For one, whose job is it to deal with us, the AVP for media affairs under the CEO or the SVP for public affairs under corporate services? Then where are they?

Any stockholders' value?

You pay your executives and staff amazing salaries, perks, bonuses, pensions and the works at our expense. But what value do we get from the SSS? If the employers are delayed in remitting, you impose onerous surcharges. But if the SSS delays reimbursements to employers for advances, you don't pay interest. You don't even apologize. If the SSS is a friend, do we need enemies? You have so many VPs in I.T. and AVP for records, but do you post remittances on time, not to mention accurately?

For such excellent services, your operating costs more than doubled from P2.3 billion in 1997 to P4.2 billion in 2000? Don't you think we need an independent performance audit that will do a bona fide cost-benefit analysis? Private insurers can provide bigger, better and more member-friendly services. The SSS is not competitive. If not for legal compulsion, a majority of the members could have opted for better insurers.

Deny the denials?

How many workers' claims have been denied by the SSS? They were compelled to put in their money intended for death, disability or sickness. And yet, when members die or are disabled or sick, your commission invokes too many technicalities to deny widows and orphans their due benefits?

You are too strict to the workers who own the money and too liberal to corporations you save from bankruptcy. And how long do you process a claim for benefits? Why can you not be at par with the GSIS that puts a deadline for every transaction? What then is the meaning of your covenant for service? Is it all covenant and no service? Come on, guys. Give us a break.

Why not give us freedom?

Since the SSS cannot do a good job, why not support a legislative effort to allow workers and employers a choice to be or not to be a member? Why do you insist to exist only by compulsion and not by merit? Why don't you compete in an open market and give us back our right to buy services from you or elsewhere? Our relationship is too one-sided. Perhaps one of us is the weakest link.

But then, thanks again for the breakfast and for coming as our guest. It's a pity not all your people have your grace. But Madam, our journey in search for truth has just begun. There are 24 million of us. So, we won't stop asking pointed questions. With malice towards none. With charity for all. As you have well said, it is our perfect right as members. So, the next step is yours, Madam president.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

Opposition to vehicle tax . . .

From page B1

"DTI had told us that it would adversely affect the industry if we would implement the revenue regulation," the finance undersecretary said.

Bernardo explained that the government wanted to tackle the restructuring of the excise taxation on motor vehicles using two steps in order to collect about P9 billion in additional taxes a year.

The first is through an administrative measure that would redefine automobiles and take away the exemption of vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 or more, including the so-called Asian utility vehicles like the Tamaraw, Hilander and Adventure.

The second step was for Congress to amend the current tax system on automobiles and change the basis of the excise taxes from fuel type and engine displacement to the selling price.

"The general sentiment of the car companies was for the government to implement the administrative measure together with the legislative reform," Bernardo said.

He said the DOF would evaluate the recommendations of the car companies in the coming weeks after it had met with the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. next week.

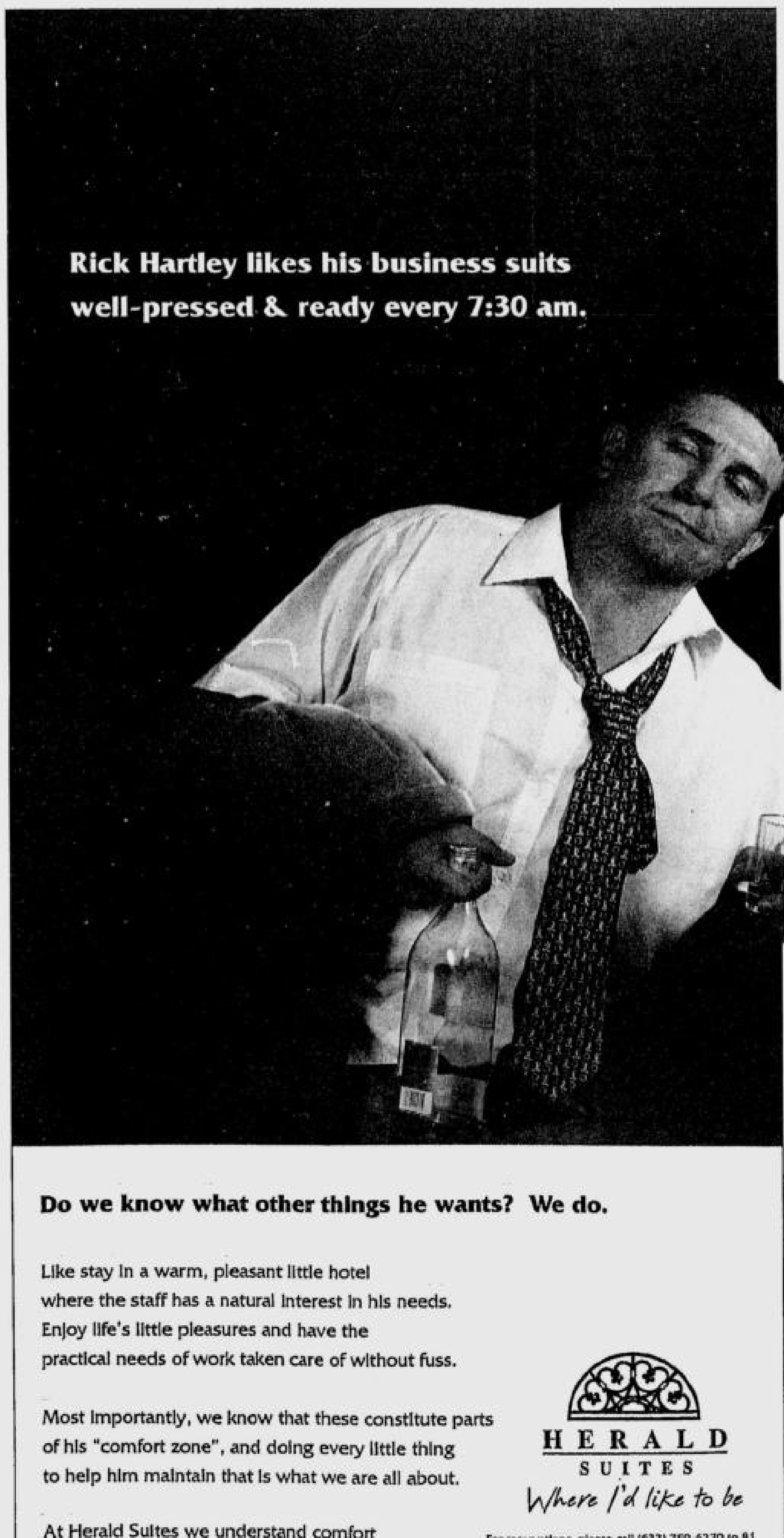
Bernardo said the car companies pointed out, particularly the American giants producing vehicles with bigger engine displacements, that if the tax exemption being enjoyed by their product lines would be lifted, the cost of the vehicles would double.

"Their position is that if we raise the tax, we would not be raising additional revenue also because there would be no sales," he said.

The DOF and the BIR, Bernardo noted, would validate the claims of the car companies in the coming weeks.

The current tax system exempts AUVs and those with a seating capacity of 10 or more from paying excise taxes.

This definition based on an earlier BIR ruling had been a source of revenue leak since even the high-end sports utility vehicle that should have been classified as luxury could avail themselves of the exemption.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PNB play

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

DESPITE the P25-million/year pay package plus one-percent share in the bank's net profit, the search for the next president of the ailing Philippine National Bank is getting to be as tough as finding a kidney donor.

Not that there is a dearth of suitable candidates, but that the putative president must have the trust of two distrusting partners, Malacañang and taipan Lucio Tan, who are both seeking a financial bailout from a failed marriage. A rather tall order.

And outside of these two principals, the candidate PNB president must also seek the approval of a more interventionist Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., in addition to the Bangko Sentral's. The latter hurdle is de rigueur; the former, more like going through the wringer, judging from the ambitions of the current PDIC occupant.

So with iBank president Ramon Sy declining the transfer to PNB, ex-Citibanker Flor Tarriela's simultaneous assumption of the PNB chairmanship has been placed on hold.

It seems that the smart money is now on PBCom president Isidro Alcantara as the next PNB president, even though the latter is soldiering on with his relatively junior tag.

Besides being an ex-Citibanker and ex-PCIBanker like Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Alcantara seems to have no problem working with Chinoy principals, more so with PBCom principal shareholder Enrique Luy, who just happens to be Lucio Tan's *balae*.

In addition to Alcantara, the names of ex-Asian Bank and RCBC president Francisco Dizon and ex-DBP president Francisco del Rosario have floated this week as possible contenders.

Del Rosario had earlier been promised the chairmanship of the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, only to give way to Vitaliano Nañagas II as the latter fled from the Social Security System. Del Rosario happens to be a cousin of the first Ramos finance secretary, Ramon del Rosario Jr., whose very mention of name, alas, raises the hackles of Lucio Tan.

Going back to Sy, the 65-year-old banker possesses the rare combination of stature and trust, earned from both Malacañang and Tan; Malacañang for his having accepted the CEOship of the sequestered United Coconut Planters Bank during the Aquino years and Tan, for having extended the very first banking loan to a struggling Lucio Tan when Sy was the Binondo manager of Bank of America.

Besides, a son of Sy works for Tan's Allied Bank.

A tough and demanding banker, Sy is of the type who can put his foot down on issues that Malacañang and Tan could not agree upon, a strong referee in the fractious PNB partnership.

The only active senior banker who is of more or less the same mould, and who is also a boy scout banker like Sy, is Equitable-PCIBank president Deogracias Vistan.

Come to think of it. Vistan as PNB president? That should make the Gos of E-PCIB happy!

Tito untethered

AFTER months of hopeful waiting that the Yuchengco heir would change his mind, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and House of Investments have this week regretfully and finally accepted the resignation of Alfonso "Tito" Yuchengco III as vice chair of the Yuchengco empire.

According to the grapevine, Tito's father, taipan Alfonso Yuchengco Jr., has tried working on his son through a number of friends and intermediaries but that the heir apparent diplomatically fended off all advances.

With his financial umbilical cord cut off from all the family businesses, Tito will now have more time to attend to his call center business and his vigorous outside-office activities.

Tough as it is on the family, Tito's declaration of independence might as well turn out to be the best for the Yuchengco siblings as well as for the family business.

There can only be one *Kapitan* in an empire; in the case of the Yuchengcos minus Tito, only one *Kapitana* among the *kapitanas*.

Heard through the grapevine

THE TAKEOVER by San Miguel Corp. of Cosmos Bottling has disrupted the operations of the popular bottling company, resulting in the shortage and even absence of Cosmos, Sarsi and Pop Cola from the supermarket shelves.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Malacañang moves to end row between FMC, Ford-Mazda

MALACAÑANG has finally intervened in the contract dispute between Filipino vehicle assembler Francisco Motor Corp. and foreign automotive giants Ford Motor Co.-Mazda Corp. which the Department of Trade and Industry has allowed to fester for more than two years.

In a directive to the DTI, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II to act on FMC's petition to cancel the registration of Ford Ranger pickups and Econovan units until Mazda has paid compensation to the Filipino firm.

FMC has sought Malacañang's intervention in its "David and Goliath" battle against Ford-Mazda because it has found little support from the DTI, which has favored the foreign automotive giants in the dispute and it could not afford to launch a costly legal battle.

In a letter to Ms Macapagal, FMC chair Fernando T. Francisco said: "We have been so financially weakened by the calibrated actions of Ford and Mazda, that we cannot even afford to go to court to seek redress because of the enormous filing fee required. This is why we are seeking your intercession."

FMC, which sold Mazda B2500 pickups and Powervans for 25 years here or since the 1980s, needs P30 million in filing fee to pursue its case to get at least $35 million in compensation from Mazda for its alleged breach of contract. Mazda has offered only $4 million.

Francisco expressed confidence that Malacañang's intervention would prod the DTI into enforcing its policy banning the registration of two companies with similar models.

Francisco said that Ford itself declared that the Ford Ranger was derived from the Mazda B-2500 and the Ford Econovan from the Mazda Powervan. He said this was the reason why Ford asked FMC's consent before applying with the DTI.

Francisco said that FMC, which has an exclusive contract to sell Mazda vehicles up to this year, withdrew its "No Objection Letter" to Ford's entry after it allegedly conspired with Mazda to stop sending new units to FMC. "We had no problems with Mazda before, until it was taken over by Ford which now has a 33-percent stake in the Japanese firm," Francisco said.

He said FMC had to notify Ms Macapagal of its problem because the DTI, which was supposed to protect its rights as the only Filipino participant in the government-sponsored Motor Vehicle Development Program, had been biased in favor of Ford and Mazda. He said the DTI suddenly reversed its policy when it ruled that the Ranger and B-2500 were distinct deals even though the agency itself asked Ford to seek FMC's consent before applying.

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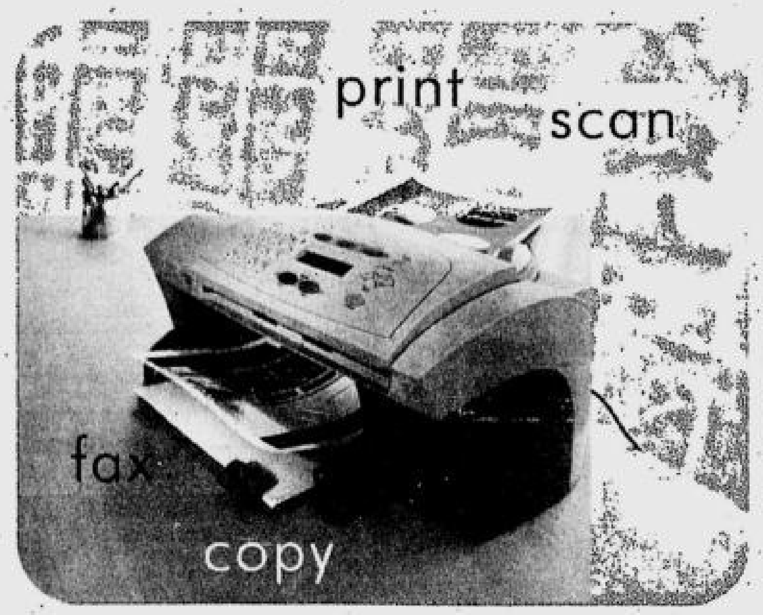

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FELICISIMO R. VILLAMARIN has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs per Doc 484 Page 77 Book XIII Series of 2001 Eloid Fajardo Notary Public (PDI-1 /25 , 2/ 1, & 8 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RODOLFO V. BARADAS was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 136; Page No. 28; Series of 2002 under Notary Public Atty. Tomas Boquiren. (PDI-Jan 25, Feb. 1&8, 2002)

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For further inquiries, please contact Mr. Moises A. Peralta, Jr., OIC - Supply Officer III, with Tel. Nos. 913-66-95 & 913-45-27.

(Sgd.) ROSARIO H. PAMARAN, MD., MPH
Director IV

(PDI--Feb. 1, 2002)

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Effective Jan. 2, 2002 Manila Tropical General Services Inc. had transferred to Room 401, First United Bldg. Corp., 413 Escolta Street, Binondo, Manila Tel. 2439517 Fax 2442689

NOTICE OF CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the Representative Office of **BANK KREISS, AG**, in the Philippines with office address at 1016 Teresa Street, Rizal Village, Makati City, ceased its business operations effective **December 31, 2001**. Claims against the Representative Office may be filed at the address stated above.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

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In Memoriam

On the **Fourth Death Anniversary** of

Corazon R. Cui

On the 1st of February 2002, her 4th Death Anniversary, Masses and prayers will be offered at St. Paul's Parish, Richmond, BC, Canada, St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang and Mary Mother of Good Counsel Church, Marcelo Green Village.

We are very grateful to all who keep our beloved **CORITO** in their memory and continue to pray for her.

Mackie, Gabby, Rosabel, Carla, Mako; and grandson **Zachary.**

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him."

I Corinthians 2:9

In Loving Memory on the 10th Death Anniversary of

VICENTE "Mang Enteng" SJ CANLAS

July 19, 1923 – February 1, 1992

Wife: **Carolina**

Children: **Cesar & Valli, Chris & Malu, Tere & Charlie, Tina & Gerard, Jojo, Gary & Soc, Avel & Noemi, Ferdie & Tina** and **Albert**

Grandchildren: **Carlo, Carla, John & Alai, Chrissie, Vince, Caroline, Charlie, Julian, Ysa, Dani, Sam, Max, Avi, Vic, Ryan, Philippe**

Great grandchild: **Tyrelle**

Brothers, sisters and relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Christ the King Parish, *Filinvest II, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
St. Peter Parish, *Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City*	12:00 NN
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, *UP Village, Quezon City*	6:00 PM

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INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Question mark

Q. How did '?' come to symbolize a question?

A. The modern system of punctuation derives from classical Greek and Latin, where its main purpose was not to aid comprehension but to guide those reading aloud. Different marks showed the reader how to stress syllables, and where to pause and draw breath to maintain meter in a line of poetry. In Latin, a question was indicated by the word *questio* ('to ask') placed at the end of the sentence. The burden of handwriting books was made easier by abbreviating many words, and *questio* was shortened to QO. But since QO could be mistaken for other abbreviations, scribes began to place the Q above the O. Before long, the Q shrunk into a squiggle, the O became a dot and thus was born '?'.

For the Record. *Ampersand* is the name of the symbol '&,' meaning 'and.' This sign once followed the alphabet in children's learning books. Children would recite the name of the letters of the alphabet and then, to describe '&,' would say, *'and per se and,' per se* being Latin for 'by itself.' In time *and per se and* evolved to the present-day ampersand.

Past Forward. This day in 1854: The first Philippine stamp was issued in Manila, bearing the portrait of Queen Isabella II of Spain. It measured 18.5 by 21.5 millimeters.

WORD WATCH

Philatelist (fi lat'l ist): a person who collects postage stamps, postmarks, etc.; from the Greek *philos,* 'loving') + *ateleia,* 'a being free from tax' (that is, with 'postage prepaid').

PDI – February 1, 2002

Republika ng Pilipinas
PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
LUNGSOD NG QUEZON SANGAY II (SIBILYAN)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
1101

IN-HOUSE BIDDING COMMITTEE (IHBC)
(GSIS Quezon City Branch Office)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS)** Quezon City Branch Office invites all general contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the construction of the proposed GSIS Quezon City Branch Office Building.

Interested general contractors with Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) classification of at least "A" (for buildings and infrastructures) and Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license of Category "AA" may participate in this public bidding upon submission of their formal Letter of Interest and after passing pre-qualification and accreditation phase of this public bidding.

Interested contractors may secure the pre-qualification checklist and standard GSIS accreditation forms from the Physical Resource Section, Administrative Division at the Fourth Floor, PCA Annex Building, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City during office hours starting **February 4, 2002.**

Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on **February 28, 2002.**

Pre-qualified contractors shall be informed of the schedule of the pre-bid conferences and the actual public bidding by registered mail.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defects or formalities therein, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the System.

(Sgd.) **DOMINADOR P. EVANGELISTA**
Branch Manager

(PDI – Jan. 31, Feb. 1 & 2, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED CORN USERS

The National Food Authority (NFA) announces the availability of imported US Yellow Corngrains Grade No. 2 at P7.30/kg Ex-NFA warehouse at Pampanga and Bulacan with priority given to the small and medium corn users.

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Interested parties may inquire from the following NFA Offices for details:

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Sindalan, McArthur Highway
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NFA Bulacan
Tikay, Malolos, Bulacan
Contact Person: Mgr. Elvira Obaña
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(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI – Feb. 1, 2 & 3, 2002)

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BUSINESS

Top banks post robust 2001 earnings

By Elena R. Torrijos

TWO of the country's largest banks have reported posting robust earnings last year.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., the country's biggest lender, chalked up a 41-percent increase in its net income to P2.117 billion in 2001.

The country's No. 2 lender, the Bank of the Philippine Islands, reported a net income of P5.25 billion last year, up 72 percent from P3.05 billion recorded in 2000.

Most analysts had expected Metrobank's net income on a consolidated basis to be P2 billion to P2.8 billion for 2001, against a net income of P1.5 billion in 2000.

"It's largely the fact that they are coming from a lower base that you are seeing such an improvement. Also the indication is that they set aside less (provisions for loan losses) this year than they did in 2000, probably as much as 50-percent less," said Edgar Bancod, head of research at BNP Paribas.

Metrobank's statement of conditions showed that its deposits as of mid-December fell about 2.6 percent quarter-on-quarter to P359.03 billion.

"I guess the surprise is really more that their deposit base contracted, which was unusual. Their foreclosed assets continued to deteriorate so did their NPLs (non-performing loans)—those were probably the highlights of that (statement)," Philippine Equity Partners research head Jojo Gonzales said.

The statement of conditions also showed the bank's NPL ratio at 18.1 percent of total loans, up from 17.21 percent in September, and compared to average NPL ratio for the whole sector of 18.76 percent as of end-November. NPLs are loans over 30 days overdue.

"The taking out of NPLs in their balance sheet, it's not going to be quick or painless," BNP Paribas' Bancod said, noting the NPLs might be sold at a discount of up to 60 percent.

The bank said in early January that it and US-based investment house Lehman Brothers had agreed to set up an asset management company to buy bad loans from Metrobank.

In BPI's case, the sharp hike in its net income can be attributed to its consolidation with Far East Bank and Trust Co. over two years ago.

In an interview, BPI president Xavier Loinaz said the bank's profit this year would likely grow by a far lower pace than last year amid a more competitive environment arising from lower interest rates.

Loinaz said profits would grow anywhere from 5 to 10 percent over last year, while loans would expand by 5 percent to 7 percent.

"Revenue on interest is going to be down a bit while expenses should be held flat," Loinaz said.

"We're seeing interest rates go down but we're hoping this will be offset by an increase in volume," Loinaz said.

He said the bank would provide over P1 billion in loan loss reserves, smaller than the P2.6 billion allotted last year that brought reserve cover to over 60 percent.

Loinaz also said that the bank's NPL ratio should fall this year because the bank would write them off.

Smaller banks have also come up with last year's earnings figures, among them Union Bank of the Philippines and Allied Banking Corp.

Union Bank said its earnings jumped 33 percent to P1.1 billion on the back of improved revenues and other income as well as a 105.5-percent increase in its profits from foreign exchange and trading. Expenses were controlled to an 8-percent growth, it said. The bank had a total reserve cover of 88.9 percent and a capital adequacy ratio of 30.59 percent.

Allied Bank, meanwhile, reported a net income of P857 million last year but no comparative figure was provided.

US economy ekes out surprise gain; Fed Reserve ends interest rate cuts

WASHINGTON—The US economy defied analyst predictions of a decline and grew at a 0.2-percent rate in the fourth quarter, the government said Wednesday, as the Federal Reserve ended its string of interest rate cuts.

Analysts were expecting a decline in GDP at a 0.9-percent rate in three months to December after a fall of 1.3 percent in the third quarter.

But the economy's surprising resilience, especially in consumer spending, showed a recovery is building even if the economy remains fragile, analysts suggest.

"The economy has bottomed and has turned a corner. It is not going to be a vigorous turn but we'll probably see the economy expanding rather than contracting," said Mike Moran, chief economist at Daiwa Securities America Inc.

Separately, the Federal Open Market Committee opted to leave the key federal funds interest rate target at 1.75 percent—its lowest level since 1961.

The largely symbolic discount rate remains at 1.25 percent, the lowest since 1955.

It was the first time the Fed panel left rates unchanged since its December 2000 meeting after 11 cuts last year aimed to revive a sputtering economy.

"Signs that weakness in demand is abating and economic activity is beginning to firm have become more prevalent," the Fed panel said in a statement.

"With the forces restraining the economy starting to diminish, and with the long-term prospects for productivity growth remaining favorable and monetary policy accommodative, the outlook for economic recovery has become more promising."

But the Fed, signaling possible future actions, added "the risks are weighted mainly toward conditions that may generate economic weakness in the foreseeable future."

Economist Joel Naroff said the Fed's move to retain an easing "bias" was simply a precaution.

"It is probably the last time in this cycle that we will see that bias," Naroff said. "It will take a few more months of data to be certain that the recession has ended, so the Fed has to temporize. But with the data becoming consistently positive, the conclusion that we have moved into a recovery is not far away."

For all of 2001, GDP rose 1.1 percent, the weakest annual growth rate since 1991, the Department of Commerce said, noting fourth-quarter estimates were based on "advance" data. It is to issue a "preliminary" estimate on Feb. 28 and a "final" estimate in March.

David Orr of Wachovia Securities gave a less rosy assessment of the report, calling government spending, which rose at an annual rate of 9.2 percent, the biggest contributor to the rise in GDP. Without such spending adding 1.6 points to the economy, "there would have been a decline of 1.4 percent." *AFP*

Globe earmarks $258M to cover capex

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom Inc., the country's second largest telephone firm, has earmarked some $258 million to cover for its capital expenditures this year.

In a briefing yesterday, Globe officials said 60 percent of the company's capital expenditures would go further to expanding its wireless business.

The company, however, has yet to identify sources for its capital expenditure requirement.

Globe chief financial officer Delfin Gonzalez Jr. told reporters that Globe officials were already "evaluating various options for 2002."

"These options include debt and equity, bonds, syndicated loans. We're also looking at peso borrowings. We're evaluating a range of choices. We're still working on the plans," he said.

"Given the size (of the capital expenditure requirement), we would be going international, but we'll still be looking at peso loans," he said.

Globe celebrated yesterday its soaring profits by declaring a 25-percent stock dividend.

All common stockholders at a proposed record date of April 30 would receive the dividend, subject to shareholder approval, Globe said in a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Globe, jointly owned by Ayala Corp., Deutsche Telekom AG and Singapore Telecom—on Wednesday announced a near tripling of its net profit to P4.3 billion for 2001, thanks to soaring mobile customer growth.

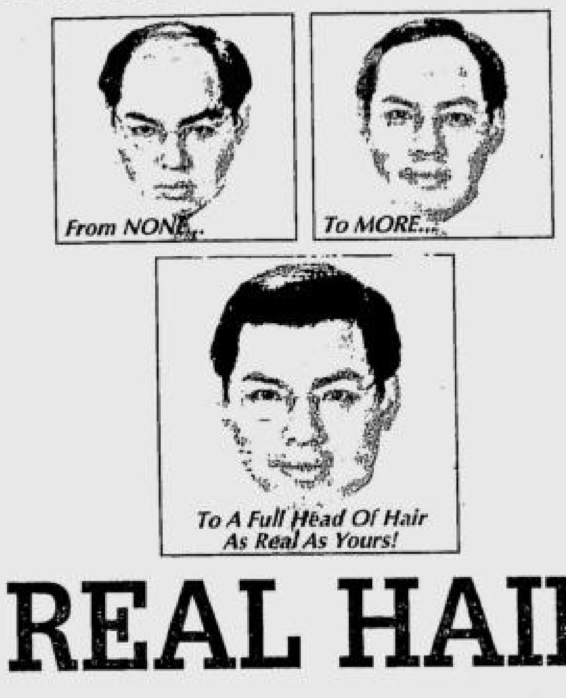
"It was a way of sharing benefits, generated by Globe's strong performance," said Globe chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala.

The company projected further growth in 2002, saying net income may reach P5.867 billion.

Consolidated revenues for 2001 totaled P35.4 billion, up 76 percent, driven higher by a 72-percent surge in mobile phone subscribers to 4.6 million customers.

Shareholders will vote on the proposed stock dividend at Globe's annual meeting on April 11.

Recover The Look And Feel Of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MON - FRI (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

Swiss mission cancels RP visit over SGS issue

By Clarissa S. Batino

A SWISS investment team has canceled a planned mission to the Philippines as a form of protest against the government's unclear position on how imports inspector Societe Generale d'Surveillance will be paid some P6.05 billion worth of receivables.

A team from Switzerland was scheduled to visit the country last week but canceled this leg of its mission. A government source familiar with the situation said the planned visit was scrapped at the last minute because the government had yet to give a firm commitment to pay its debts to SGS.

"I think the Swiss government is already overseeing the operations of SGS and is disappointed that the Philippines has yet to come up with payment schedule for its P6.05 billion in debts to the Swiss inspector," the source said.

The investment team was supposed to hold talks on how trade and investment between the Philippines and Switzerland could be enhanced.

The Macapagal administration has asked SGS to allow the government to settle its P6.05-billion debt in installment over several years.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in an earlier interview that budget constraints restricted the government from paying SGS the full amount in a single tranche.

"We are negotiating with SGS to spread out the payments over a certain period of time considering the tight budgetary situation of the national government," Camacho said.

The Swiss imports checker has billed the Philippine government an equivalent of P6.48 billion for services rendered from Sept. 1998 to March 2000.

After reviewing the billing, a task force formed to validate SGS' claims recommended that the government only pay the Swiss inspector P6.05 billion.

DISCLOSURES

THE **PHILIPPINE Estates Corp.** has announced that its new office will be at the 27th floor of Wynsum Corporate Plaza at the Ortigas commercial center.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom Inc. has declared a 25-percent stock dividend in favor of stockholders as of April 30. The stock dividend shall be payable 30 days from the date of approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission and Philippine Stock Exchange. Also, the company disclosed the resignation of Cesar Sison as a director.

* * *

SINOPHIL Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Feb. 18, 4 p.m., at the Sta. Maria room of the Discovery Suites at the Ortigas commercial center. Only stockholders as of Jan. 10 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

* * *

MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc. has clarified that it has yet to receive a copy of the petition filed by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel. The OGCC has ordered the company to stick to the provisions of its 1999 deal or it will seize Mondragon's assets. The company added that **First Metro Investment Corp.** is still processing its restructuring plan.

Compiled Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, January 31, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	65	67	65	67	238,300
China Banking Corp.	580	580	560	560	4,130
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	4,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	28.5	27	28.5	853,500
First E-Bank Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	3,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	196	205	196	205	255,250
Philippine National Bank	67	71	67	71	62,000
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	2,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	19,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	19,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	16	16.5	16	16	470,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	165,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	120,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	990	995	990	995	280
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	32	34.5	32	34.5	326,200
Diversified Fin. Network	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.4	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.54	0.57	0.52	0.57	27,590,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	710	745	710	745	81,600
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.042	0.043	0.04	0.04	22,400,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
Piltel	0.49	0.5	0.43	0.46	9,450,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	310,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	505	525	500	510	188,870
Ivantage Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.61	210,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.023	0.025	105,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	27	27.5	27	27.5	88,400
Manila Electric Co. B	38.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	915,600
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.9	1.82	1.88	20,247,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	10,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.05	15,085,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	550,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	12,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,780,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.1	2.04	2.1	149,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	30,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	1,125,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.5	24	23.5	24	220,300
RFM Corp.	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.9	3,706,000
San Miguel Corp. A	44	45	44	45	98,200
San Miguel Corp. B	58	59.5	58	59.5	1,110,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	120,000
Ayala Corp.	6	6.2	6	6.2	14,779,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.76	210,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	12.25	11.75	12.25	2,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	190,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	53,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.77	0.83	0.77	0.83	50,220,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.4	0.44	0.4	0.41	5,600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.35	0.3	0.33	8,040,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.105	0.105	1,300,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.06	500,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	10,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	29.5	31.5	29.5	31	393,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.195	0.215	0.195	0.2	14,950,000
Ionics Inc.	8	9	8	9	232,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.82	1.76	1.82	907,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.86	0.88	0.86	0.88	6,680,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	360,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.41	0.38	0.41	31,420,000
Music Corp.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	6,630,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.205	0.19	0.205	510,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	130,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	2,580,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	5,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.18	0.19	650,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	1,580,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.085	0.085	500,000
Pryce Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	30,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	145,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.46	0.47	12,890,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.63	0.6	0.63	1,940,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	210,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	21,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.72	0.74	0.69	0.7	2,170,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.13	0.13	80,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	32.5	35	32.5	35	800,600
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	720	720	710	710	6,500
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	690	730	690	730	4,700
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	52,000,000
PNB Warrants	20	20	20	20	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	163,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	62,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	6.4	5.9	6.4	17,860,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.31	0.26	0.31	14,920,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.49	4,570,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.33	21,930,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.28	2.44	2.28	2.44	25,437,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.11	0.135	0.11	0.135	400,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.3	0.33	0.29	0.31	1,750,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.23	490,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.07	0.09	0.07	0.075	400,000
Phil. Realty and Holdings	0.09	0.1	0.09	0.1	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	4,235,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.0825	0.0825	0.08	0.08	1,000,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.045	0.042	0.043	47,400,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.195	2,340,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.21	0.215	0.205	0.205	1,380,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	71,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	10,800,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	40,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.023	0.021	0.022	29,400,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	52,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.19	0.26	0.19	0.26	130,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	113,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,217,400	106,331,275.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	697,332,470	660,240,345.00
PRO	93,492,000	215,644,660.00
Mining	144,280,000	3,453,350.00
OIL	194,580,000	3,024,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	1,131,901,930	988,694,130.00
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	549.93	UP 21.84
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,852.13	UP 69.36
PRO	610.75	UP 26.30
Mining	1,306.94	UP 10.01
OIL	2.03	UP 0.04
All Shares Index	727.05	UP 12.47
Composite	1,361.94	UP 54.83

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BUSINESS*Friday*
Margie Quimpo-Espino, Business Features Editor

Prepare for a crisis in times of peace

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MORE changes have happened over the past 20 years than in the past 200 years and the terrorist attacks on the United States, Firestone's massive recall of defective tires, the bankruptcy of Enron show that these changes can be radical and disruptive.

Changes in the Philippines over the past 20 years have been no less disruptive or radical. Take the case of the two Edsa revolutions and the Asian currency crisis that almost bankrupted large corporations such as conglomerate Victorias Milling Co. and the national flag carrier Philippine Airlines.

These changes that confront all companies in the Philippines can either make these firms stronger or bring them down to their knees.

It all depends on timely and correct decisions as well as the proper communications strategy within the company and with stakeholders such as the public, shareholders and consumers.

Renowned American anthropologist and educator Johnnetta Cole said in her keynote speech at the IABC Conference last Tuesday that corporate communicators can help management deal with these changes if they keep their integrity, rally behind the truth and communicate, communicate, communicate.

Cole stressed that companies faced with tough problems like finding out a product is defective, a top official filed with sexual harassment charges . . . may be tempted with sacrificing integrity to deal with the problem.

JOHNETTA Cole and Alexandra Prieto

LORENZO

TEVES

Management and corporate communicators may then resort to bribery in an attempt to sweep the problem under the rug.

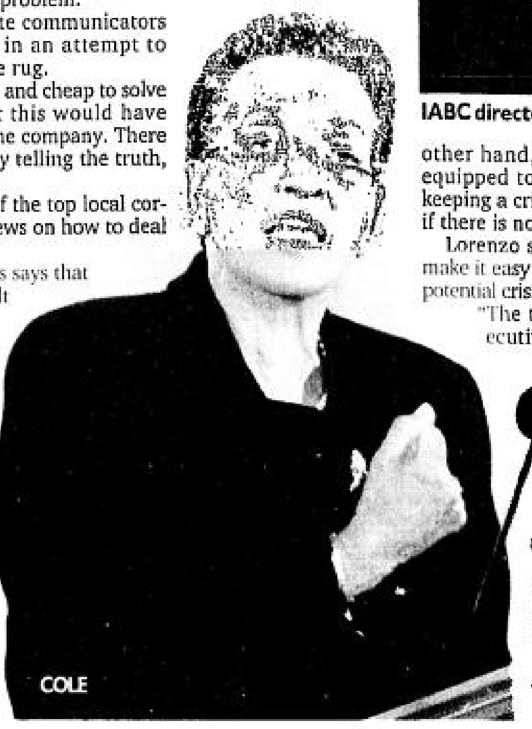
Cole said it may be effective and cheap to solve the short-term problem but this would have long-term consequences for the company. There is no substitute for just simply telling the truth, she said.

Chief executives of some of the top local corporations also shared their views on how to deal with disruptive change.

Eduardo Delgado of Delbros says that the 53-year-old company dealt with its share of disruptive changes by taking advantage of the latest in communications technology.

Delbros executives, for instance, are in constant communication through the short messaging system, thus, cutting down on e-mail overload by 70 percent.

He says instant communication is crucial for a company such as Delbros, which deals with clients from all over the Philippines.



COLE

IABC director Rey David, Johnetta Cole, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, and Alexandra Prieto

Luis Lorenzo Jr. of Lapanday Holdings, on the other hand, says Lapanday has always been equipped to deal with significant changes by keeping a crisis management team in place even if there is no crisis.

Lorenzo says keeping the team in place will make it easy for the group to quickly respond to a potential crisis since they already know what to do.

"The team should be led by the chief executive officer because people in a crisis often look to the CEO to be visible and to take charge," Lorenzo says.

Margarito Teves of the Land Bank of the Philippines, on the other hand, recommends that a company, particularly the management team, should be prepared for all scenarios from bad to worst.

"There should be a business contingency plan in place which can be activated immediately should problems arise," Teves says.

INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, meanwhile, stressed the importance of keeping communication lines open within the company structure to keep morale up during a crisis.

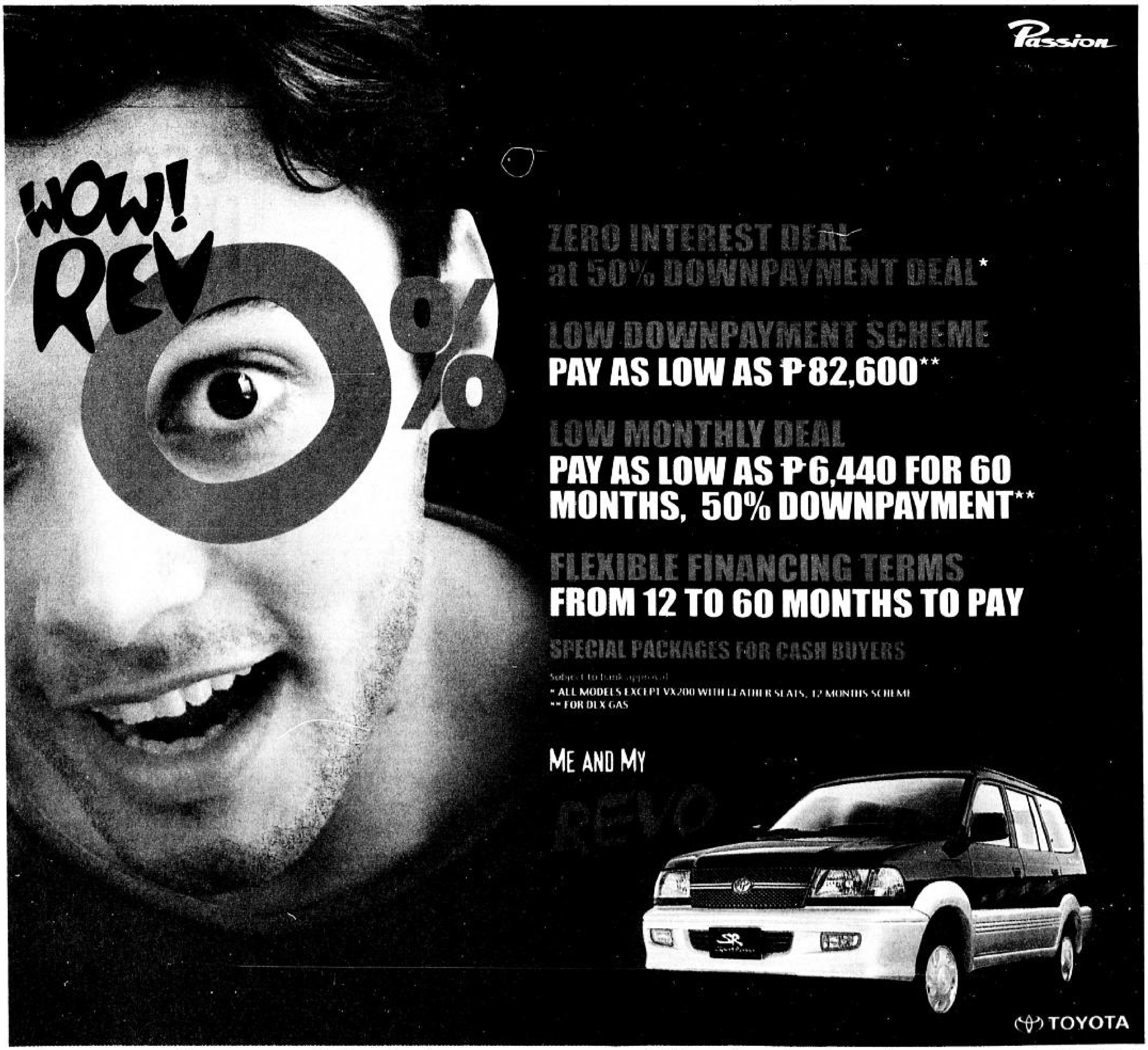
Romualdez cites the example of the advertising boycott during the Estrada administration which initially brought the morale of the INQUIRER staff up. It did not last long, however, because people realized that the boycott may lead to people losing their jobs.

Romualdez says she chose to hold general assemblies at the INQUIRER to keep the staff updated on the latest developments and to assure them that everybody is in the situation together.

These meetings, she says, helped keep morale up despite the extreme difficulties faced by the newspaper at that time.

The chief executive officers presented their views during the CEO forum of the recently concluded national conference of the Philippine chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators. The theme was "Communication in an Age of Disruptive Change."

The IABC is the leading international group that links communicators to a global network that supports the highest professional standards in organizational communication.



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Promo period: Feb. 1-28, 2002

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0211 Series of 2002

Consumers seek more daring product ideas

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

NEW PRODUCTS
ENTREPRENEUR

THE MARKET is already inundated with millions of products dubiously useful at best; our homes are crammed full of knick-knacks lying around like trophies.

So is there still space for new products in the market?

Yes, for consumers are always on the lookout for new things. There is room for creation and innovation because man, including the angst-filled, is still a creature of desire.

I conducted a mini survey on what consumers still want from the market. The result is another bumper yield of ideas for new products and services.

These are for you—enterprising Pinoys out there. Who knows that this list of wants from our mini-survey—some of them realistic, others plain wishful—wouldn't result in a new product or two?

I wish an entrepreneur would produce a jump starter for a car. I don't need to attach a jumper cable, or ask people to give it a push when my second-hand car refuses again to start. All I have to do is to plug this wonderful gadget into the cigarette lighter and it will automatically recharge the batteries from the inside.

And what about a remote-controlled aroma therapy dispenser with timer, so you could have a nice mood change in an entire room or even an entire floor? Or . . . a digital alarm clock that resets itself even when the power goes off. As it is, a digital alarm clock goes back to a 12:00 o'clock setting when the electricity goes kaput. This way, in case power outages happen in the middle of the night, the clock will reset itself and one doesn't have to wake up late.

Leka Orillo, Filipino working student in the United States.

"I wish an entrepreneur would offer phone- or Internet-based traffic update service. Just call or contact this number or site, say where you want to go and you will be informed of the best and fastest route. The update should be based on real time (not two hours late)."

Roxie Regalado, researcher, UP Diliman

"An Encyclopedia Filipina—where you will know all that you want to know about things Philippine and Filipino. This is where you read up on great Filipino statesmen (Magsaysay, Quezon, Aquino), institutions (UP, PUP, DBP), artists (Joaquin, Amorsolo, Bernal), events (People Power I and II, Cry of Balintawak) without having to go to the Filipiniana section of the National Library.

Erick Yap, Development Bank of the Phils.

"Breast milk is best for babies. So what about those whose Moms are sick and unable to breast feed or have to go to work or have abandoned them for some reason or other? So, won't someone produce breast milk in tetrapaks or cans?"

Al Gabriel, student, UP Diliman

"Notice how staplers don't seem to work well after some time? So I wish an entrepreneur would come up with a high-tech stapler, laser-activated, equipped with sensors. All one has to do is to put a sheaf of paper under it and voila the gadget presses into it automatically and one gets a perfectly fastened document."

Gina Danila, Development Bank of the Phils.

"NMAT and other college entrance test reviews in a video CD package or computer program. This will spare students of the hassle of going to review classes. And yes . . . I'd love to have formal shoes that feel as comfortable as rubber shoes or sneakers."

Jaymee Bermudez, student

New product ideas? Here are 10 items we wish entrepreneurs would put on the market soon. They're divided into two categories: "instant and/or disposable" and "everything mobile."

Instant and/or disposable:

- Solar powered cell phone (or any electronic device for that matter—laptop, beeper, walkman, discman, watch, camera, recorder, etc.)—the ultimate in high-tech and mobile communications
- Ready-made, possibly disposable keys (a lot like those "key cards" they sell in the malls). These should be available at a one-stop shop where one can have duplicate keys instantly made in times of emergency.
- All-purpose dress. Picked up this idea from home TV shopping where they were selling this dress that you could twist any which way. So, it's not just your "little black skirt," but your "little black 'skirt, blouse, dress," etc.
- Socks with deodorizer or sprinkle-on deodorizer for clothes, so you need not have to apply deodorizer on yourself anymore (and you won't be considered gross).
- No-need-to-wash-off soap and shampoo—Great for ala-Lonely Planet travelers. I think there's a product like this already available somewhere but it's still quite expensive.
- Disposable and/or super-absorbent all-purpose towels—There's a product they call a "chamois" (sheepskin/goatskin leather) that is light, super absorbent and dries fast; used for cleaning and for ala-Lonely Planet traveling, only this is expensive and not disposable.

Everything mobile:

- Umbrella repair service—Do they repair umbrellas at Mr. Quickie? They can start to. Better if "mobile" like what is available in the provinces.
- Messengerial service on bike, one that is personal (will pick up package from your house/office and will deliver straight to recipient). Already being done in certain cities in the United States, such as New York. Great to have within Makati for busy executives who need to send highly classified parcels urgently/asap.
- Mobile food service—sort of like your pedicab vendor, only this sells lunch to busy office people. Hygienic food, a must.
- Mobile parlor—For instance, you're a businessman on a business trip. You need to have your hair/makeup/nails done fast for an important meeting/conference/ presentation in an hour, so you can look decent. No time to stroll to the nearest parlor and make an appointment. Look in the Yellow Pages and call up the city's mobile parlor service. Should be like pizza that can get to your place within 10-20 minutes. Maybe in the "olden days" they'd call this home service.

Aina Rosales, student, UP Diliman

I have been working in Pakistan, a Muslim country, for some time. When I go on home leave, I sometimes have Pakistani guests. I am always at a quandary where to take them for dinner. As far as I know there is no restaurant serving halal food. Or is there?

Nida F. Lavador, U.N. expert

"All I want is an MRT to Quiapo via Quezon Avenue. Why? Because it's not there."

Tom J. Ranada, entrepreneur, Quezon City

"A 'good' cell phone that indicates how much radiation you are absorbing every time you use it. (By the way, do you know that radiation is a downer? So you Gen-Xers out there, beware—excessive use can cause depression.)"

Butch Dua, citizen of the earth

"How about a wonder hairbrush that will save us P300-500 a month. It should have a hollow handle, where a small tube is inserted. At the flick of a finger, the tube releases hair dye to the base where the bristles are attached. A no-sweat way to self-dye your hair. No need to go to the parlor for an expensive treatment."

(Any product ideas of your own? E-mail to author at myrnaco @upissi.net.)

Transferability of BOI-issued tax credit certificates

By Lea Gracia V. Molina

TAX FILES
SGV & Co.

MANY of us may have received gift certificates issued by department stores and groceries last Christmas, and used them to buy items from those establishments.

For those who are cash-strapped, a gift certificate is a welcome treat. Instead of shelling out cash, one uses the gift certificate to buy goods depending on the face value of the gift certificate.

The same thing happens when a taxpayer has a tax credit certificate or TCC. Like an ordinary gift certificate, a TCC, when surrendered to the issuing authority like the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), is exchanged with something equal to or less than the stated amount in the TCC.

That something is the settlement, partial or full, of the taxpayer's tax liability.

In addition, a TCC, like a gift certificate, can be sold to another entity and usually at a discount.

The similarity stops there. There is more to a TCC than surrendering a piece of paper to settle a liability.

What is a TCC?

The most common type of TCC is the one issued by the BIR. But unknown to many, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Department of Finance (DOF) and/or the Board of Investments (BOI) also issue TCCs.

This article will focus on those DOF/BOI-issued TCCs. But first, what is a tax credit and what is a TCC? Although the latest definitions of both these terms are found in Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 5-2000 dated July 19, 2000, this article will adopt the definitions found in Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 20-91 dated June 10, 1991.

This is because the earlier, simpler definitions include not only TCCs issued by the BIR but also those issued by the BOI. Under RMO 20-91, a tax credit is "an amount due in favor of a taxpayer resulting from an overpayment of a tax liability, erroneous payment of a tax due, or grant of tax incentives under existing laws."

The TCC is defined as "an accountable form issued to a taxpayer in acknowledgment of an approved tax credit."

BOI-issued TCCs find basis in Article 21 of Executive Order (EO) No. 226 or the Omnibus Investments Code. Issued as a form of incentive to qualified BOI-registered entities, these TCCs are valid for 10 years and can be transferred but only to another BOI-registered entity.

These can be used to pay taxes, duties, charges and fees due to the national government, subject to certain limitations. The tax credits issued under EO 226 do not form part of the gross income of the grantee/transferee for income tax purposes and are, therefore, not taxable.

Transfer of BOI-issued TCCs

The transferability of BOI-issued TCCs is governed by the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the BOI and the DOF and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). Incidentally, certain amendments to the IRR were published only last Jan. 14.

Before the transfer is effected, certain conditions must be observed:

1. The TCC must be valid at the time the request for transfer is filed.

2. Both the transferor and the transferee must be BOI-registered and their respective registrations must be intact. Enterprises whose 10-year entitlement to tax credits has lapsed shall still qualify as transferors or transferees as long as they remain registered with the BOI.

3. Transfer of tax credits on raw materials and on domestic capital equipment can only be made to those transferees and only to the extent specified in the MOA. Transfers to the parent company, sister companies or affiliates of the transferor is allowed regardless of non-compliance with the conditions for transfers of TCC on raw materials and domestic capital equipment if the transfer is a form of assistance.

4. For companies which have permanently closed or permanently stopped its BOI-registered activity for valid reasons as certified by BOI, the transfer still is allowed in three instances—(a) if the transferee is a BOI-registered parent, sister or affiliate company; (b) in the absence of such parent, sister or affiliate companies, the transferee may be any BOI-registered company so long as the transferor had operated its BOI-registered activity for at least five years prior to closure; and (c) the transferor's registration has been canceled by the BOI but only if the cancellation is due to the said closure or ceasing of operation.

Please note that this is an exception to the condition/requirement regarding the non-cancellation of the BOI-registration of both parties previously discussed.

In this transfer, proof of valid closure is also required.

Second Transfer

Interestingly, unlike a BIR-issued TCC which can only be transferred once, a BOI-issued TCC may be transferred for the second time as a strategy to assist a distressed industry sector.

Use of TCCs

BOI-issued TCCs may be used to settle tax liabilities. Under the MOA, the transferee may use TCCs as payment of taxes, duties, charges or fees directly due to the national government.

This means that they can be used to pay for all the direct tax liabilities of the transferee but not the latter's withholding tax liability. This is because the withholding tax is not the transferee's direct tax liability.

When a taxpayer has a withholding tax liability, he merely acts as a withholding agent of the government and as such, merely remits to the government an amount due from another taxpayer directly liable to the tax.

How to Transfer BOI-Issued TCCs

After all the necessary conditions for the transfer shall have been complied with, the next step would be to effect the transfer of the TCC by filing a request for transfer. The request must be accompanied by the following documents:

1. Certification from the BIR and the BOC that the transferor has no pending obligations with these agencies;

2. Original TCC and one photocopy;

3. Notarized deed of assignment signed by responsible officers of the transferor and the transferee stating the consideration for the transfer;

4. Secretary's certification on the board resolutions of both parties on the authorized signatories to the deed of assignment;

5. Specific documents to support the consideration for the transfer as stated in the deed of assignment, such as:

- Commercial documents like sales contract, invoices and proforma invoices covering the trade transaction declared as basis for the transfer;
- Audited financial statements of the transferor for the last two years, with breakdown of manufacturing cost indicating the cost of the particular materials subject of the transfer, if the transfer is based on supply of materials;
- Secretary's certification on the present ownership profiles of the companies, for transfers to related companies;
- Other documents/information as prescribed in the foregoing guidelines.

6. Copy of the BOI registration certificates of both parties;

7. Clearances from BIR and BOC; and

8. Liquidation Report on previously approved transfer(s).

After considering the requirements and procedure involved in the transfer of a BOI-issued TCC, one would rather have the simplicity and accessibility of a Christmas gift certificate. But consider this: the latter may be good as cash but will not settle tax liabilities. *(For comments and suggestions, please send an e-mail to sgv mail@Andersen WO.)*

Phone firm's way to keep callers: Text a word and win a prize

By Abigail L. Ho

IN the fiercely competitive cellular phone business, the two major players—Globe Telecom and Smart Communications Inc.—are hard put to constantly please their subscribers and provide efficient service.

"Part of our marketing strategy is to keep the subscribers happy. Our objective is to get loyalty," says Fernando Busuego III, Globe's director for mobile data, marketing division.

He adds that happy subscribers become loyal subscribers which is why Globe came up with its TXTciting text game that gives its subscribers a chance to win high end handsets and cash prizes.

TXTciting is just the start of a series of text-based contest the phone firm will be launching.

TXTciting combines the thrill of the popular TV game shows with the Filipinos' love affair with text messaging. A Globe subscriber can win every hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. just by sending the correct word for the day to phone number 2255.

He can get the word of the day via text, through a website, hear it on the radio or TV, or read it in the INQUIRER.

Each message, or entry, costs P2 for postpaid plan subscribers and P2.50 for prepaid plan subscribers.

"People are predisposed to texting and people like value, especially during hard times. This gives us the opportunity to offer this service," Busuego says.

Prizes vary every hour, with cash prizes ranging from P10,000 to P100,000 and handset models from Nokia 6210s to Nokia 9210s. At the end of the promo, all text entries qualify for a grand raffle draw where a P3-million grand prize is up for grabs.

"We had a very good year (2001). We wanted to start this year on the right note. This is the first time for Globe to do something this big. It's primarily in gratitude to loyal subscribers. It's something where they can actually get big prizes," says Emmanuel Lingao, Globe's senior manager for customer loyalty, marketing department.

For the duration of the promo, from Jan. 15 to Feb. 28, Globe is giving away over P10 million in prizes.

Subscribers may send in as many entries as they want per hour, per day. They also have the chance to win more than once, as long as they keep their entries coming.

Busuego relates the story of one of the winners who won P10,000 in two separate hourly draws. "One text qualifies as one entry, but that entry winning doesn't disqualify the subscriber from winning again," he says.

Although the contest is also bound to generate some revenue for the cellular service provider, Lingao says revenue is only a secondary consideration when Globe came up with the concept for the promo.

"Revenue is only secondary to us. This contest is more of a reward to subscribers—a loyalty program," he says.

Busuego adds: "The measure of the success of this promo is not the number of entries, but the number of loyal subscribers at the end of two months."

BUSUEGO

TXTciting's first P100,000 winner is a 10-year-old boy whose aunt won a Nokia 8310 two days prior, he relates.

But Busuego says the main target for the promo is the youth as bulk of the millions of text messages that pass through Globe's system every day come from the younger generation.

Aside from making subscribers happy and more loyal, the TXTciting promo also educates Globe subscribers about its myGlobe range of services.

MyGlobe is a portal accessible via wireless access protocol (WAP) or short messaging service (SMS) that offers services ranging from fun stuff like ring tones and logos to more serious services like mobile banking and traffic advisories.

Each word for the day is myGlobe-related, thus making subscribers aware that the service exists.

Promotion for the contest includes flyers, print ads, TV ads and radio plugs. A subscriber may also visit the myGlobe website for the word of the day.

Globe also uses a more interactive form of advertisement for the TXTciting text game: Infocast, a text-based marketing and promotion tool that Globe uses to inform its subscribers of new promos and contests.

With Infocast, subscribers receive the word for the day through a message from 2977. It also contains particulars on how to join the contest.

Busuego says most of their winners are actually subscribers who got messages from Infocast and decided to join the game. A lot of these winners sent in only one text entry.

With intensive media publicity as well as the Infocast broadcasts, Lingao says "subscribers' responses are escalating everyday. People are getting really excited over the game."

He, however, does not want to disclose exactly how many entries they had already received over the past two weeks.

But media blitz is not the only thing that encourages subscribers to join the game. Aside from being easy to access because the game is text-based, people also do not have to wait months to actually win something.

"A winner would immediately know that he won because we would call him," Lingao explains.

Prizes can be claimed within the week of winning and winners are given the standard 60 days upon notification to claim their prizes before these get forfeited.

"This is all about giving value through one of the most pervasive media. In fact, we've had winners from Cebu and Ilocos," Busuego says.

With the Philippines still being the text capital of the world, he adds Globe would be coming up with more text-based services and contests in the future.

Bank turns 100 in RP, changes look worldwide

By Raul C. Dancel

CITIBANK NA is marking its 100 years in the Philippines and Asia with a makeover—and the change couldn't come at a more opportune, though inadvertent, time.

Starting today, Citibank is rolling out a new look in Asia to reflect a more modern and universal yet more personal bank. The familiar Citibank logo with the compass rose is giving way to a new one with a red arc and letters in lower case.

The letters are no longer bold and monolithic; they are now friendlier and more fluid. It is a logo that Citibank hopes will communicate to the public its changing image from a large, seemingly unchanging institution to one that is intimate and more responsive to change.

"The red arc and the new font signal what Citibank is today—a service company with the broadest offering of financial products delivered to customers with convenience, innovation and professionalism. At the same time, it does not detract from the elements of commitment and reliability for which we are known in Asia," Citibank Asia Pacific group head for consumer bank Frits Seegers says.

The makeover comes as the world is trying to shake off the aftershocks of the Sept. 11 incident. For Citibank, it is a change that is truly more than cosmetic.

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, consumer behavior suddenly shifted to one extreme. Suddenly, people were afraid to travel, and they were afraid to spend. Estimates placed the drop in credit card sales at around 20 percent.

Luckily for Citibank and other financial companies, the slump lasted only for weeks. "We're now back to previous levels, and things are picking up," Seegers says.

What is more significant, however, is that with 2001 behind them and a new year to look forward to, consumers now have a new perspective of things. While they haven't forgotten Sept. 11 and the trauma it brought to the world, they are now looking at the future with more optimism.

"I think people now have a mindset where they are now saying, 'Let's get on with life. Let's try to forget some of the tragedies and hardships we had last year," says Seegers.

"It's a new time, and I think 2002 will be much better than 2001. Our people are optimistic," he says—and Citibank's makeover underscores this point. It is a statement that, at least for the Philippines and Asia, Citibank has new and brighter things to bring.

The change in its logo ties Citibank closer to its parent company, Citigroup Inc.

Citigroup was formed following the merger of Citicorp, parent company of Citibank, and the Travelers Group in 1998, which created a financial powerhouse with a market capitalization of around $140 billion.

The red arc in the new logo is a trademark that Citibank shares with Citigroup. It is actually a stylized umbrella—a take-off from the Travelers Group's own logo—that reflects Citigroup's presence in Citibank, a sign that behind Citibank is a network of over 270,000 financial experts managing around 190 million customers in 120 countries.

With Citicorp's merger with the Travelers Group, Citibank is now able to offer a broader range of products and services to meet all the financial needs that it comes across.

"As a member of Citigroup, Citibank has gained access to more core competencies. The new look signals that Citibank today has evolved into more than a bank bringing customers a wide range of financial solutions," says Seegers.

Citibank's new look, developed by US consultant Lippincott Design after extensive research and testing in Asia, Latin America and Central Europe, is Citibank's sixth during its 100 years in Asia. It was first unveiled in North America in 2000.

In the Philippines, Citibank began as the International Banking Corp. Set up on July 14, 1902, the bank's first office was a leased stable room at 86 Calle Rosario in Binondo, Manila.

Citibank's new logo will start appearing on the bank's branches here starting today. Statements of accounts, deposit and withdrawal slips, and sales slips issued by accredited merchants will bear it. Existing credit cards, ATM cards and checks will remain valid and accepted for transactions.

Credit cards bearing the new look will be issued to cardholders upon renewal, while ATM cards will be converted in phases beginning early this year. Checkbooks with the new look will be distributed to clients who will reorder within the year.

'Make education the business instead of making business out of education'

FROM the outside looking in, publishing seems a rather simple business: Get a bunch of experts to write on their areas of specialization, type everything into a computer, and editing, couple of proof readings, and it's off to the printing press then the bookstores.

But for Jesus Ernesto Sibal, more known by his initials—JES and is recognized as one of the pillars of the Philippine textbook industry, publishing is less about churning out books and more about enriching the knowledge and skills of the Filipino youth.

"If we want our children to lead our nation to progress, we must give them the best kind of education possible." These are the words of wisdom that have survived Sibal, who founded SIBS Publishing House in 1998.

JES, who passed away more than a year years ago, left a legacy of quality academic textbooks used by the most prestigious private schools all over the Philippines. Tasked with carrying on this bemedalled legacy is his wife, Carmen Mimette, a graduate of the Standford Professional Publishing Course who takes over the presidency of SIBS.

Mingling of business and education

"Anyone who wants to be successful in the textbook publishing industry, must make education their business instead of making business out of education," stresses Mimette.

In essence, this sums up the philosophy of SIBS which continually researches educational developments in the US and Europe and then applies these global developments into their textbooks in consonance with local realities.

When creating textbooks, SIBS carefully taps the most qualified and outstanding educators in the preschool, grade school and high school levels to create instructional materials for English, Math, Filipino, Science, Social Sciences, and other subject areas.

"We work with the most illustrious Filipino educators to be able to come up with quality textbooks that help enrich the knowledge, skills, and values of Filipino children. Instead of printing and using foreign books, our textbooks are tailor-fit to the dreams, aspirations, and experiences of the Filipino youth. This makes the learning process appropriate and relevant," Mimette explains.

In this high-tech age, information technology (IT) has a two-fold influence in the publishing business—in the actual production of the books as well as the content.

"One crucial challenge that textbook publishers like us have to face is how IT has and will continue to drastically change the world we live in. On the production side, we have been keen on using modern word processing, layout, graphics, and printing tools to drastically cut down the time it takes to produce a textbook," Mimette reveals.

"On the side of content, our textbooks must reflect these technological advancements in the lessons, examples, and activities that the students work on," she adds.

Beating the pinch

Not unlike every other industry, the economic downturn has pinched the publishing business—specially those that cater to the private school niche. Of the estimated 20 million students that comprise the total Philippine school population, about 16 million are in public schools and another 2 million are in tertiary and vocational education. This leaves a market of more or less 2 million students in about 5,000 private grade schools and high schools all over the country.

"The textbook requirements of private schools go beyond the Philippine Elementary Learning Competencies and Philippine Secondary Schools Learning Competencies prescribed by the Department of Education. So the value of content development is inherently higher. Add to this is the influx of new publishing houses and you have a clear picture of how competitive this industry is," Mimette shares.

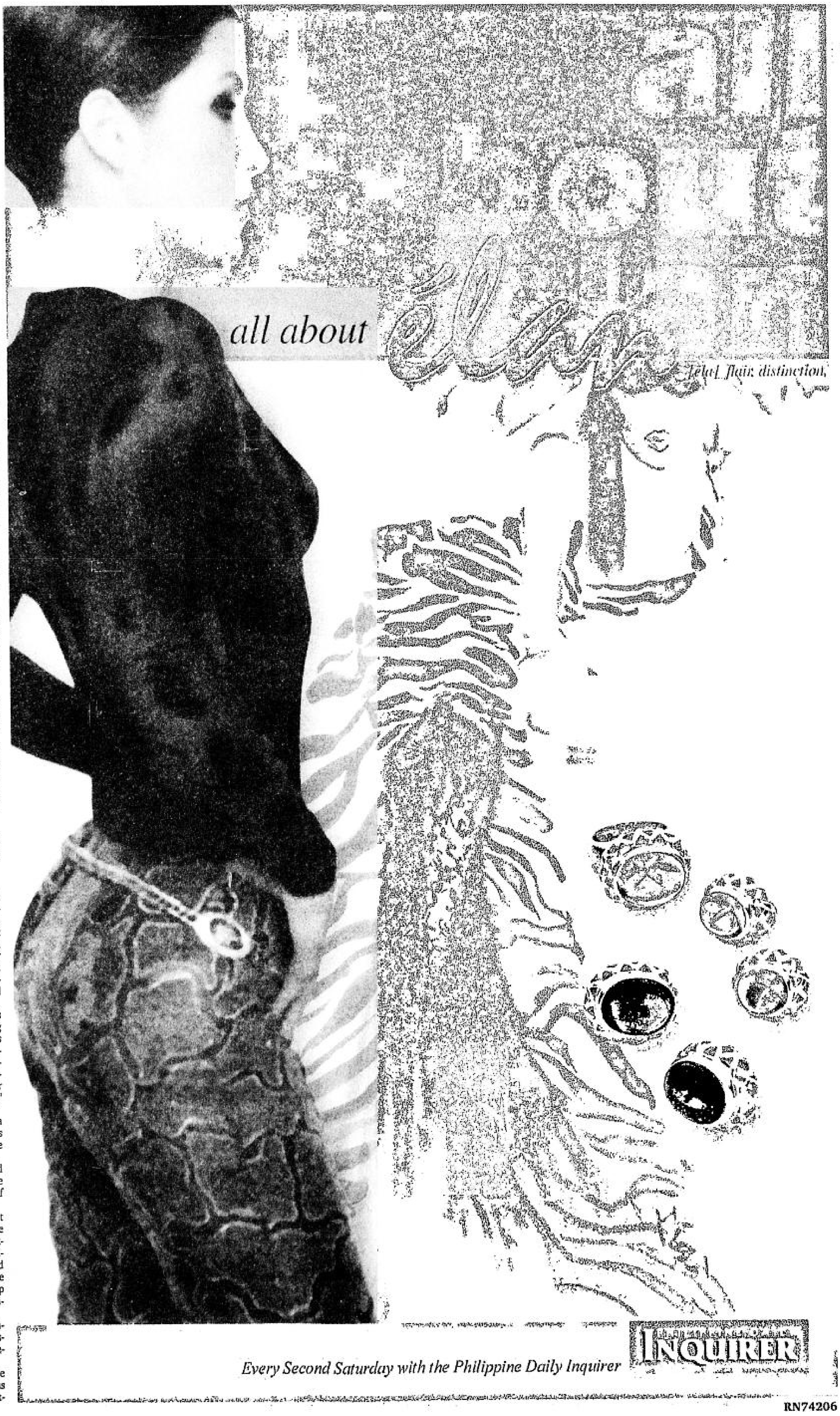
A well-known marketing tenet says that when a market becomes more competitive, the companies that are able to maintain their edge are those that are able to provide their customers with better value.

With this in mind, SIBS heavily relies on field information fed by their textbook advisors who are constantly in touch with the heads and faculty of private schools using SIBS textbooks.

"Our textbook advisors are keen on the current needs of teachers. The field information that we gather from them becomes the bases of the textbook programs that we produce and the free seminars and trainings that we conduct. As an added value for schools using our products, we provide faculty members with teachers guides which help them become more effective and efficient educators," Mimette relates.

Through these efforts, and by supporting conventions and conferences held by private school associations all over the country, SIBS customers receive a kind of 'after-sales-service.'

Conventionally, such 'after-sales-service' is more associated with electronic gadgets. But as SIBS has proven, it is equally valuable for academic textbooks.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LIFESTYLE

Chelo Banal-Formoso, Editor
Marge C. Enriquez, Subsection Editor

Trend Spotting

2002 trends for the non-fashionable

Feeling marginalized by today's fashion? Can't flash your navel?

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

I GOT a text alert from **Tonichi Nocom** one midmorning last week—the **Yves Saint Laurent** Retrospective was showing on Fashion TV.

I flicked the remote and ignored the cost of being late for office. Parading in my bedroom were the fashions of the past four decades. To the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction" walked the models in double-breasted coat tunics, coat dresses, trouser suits with scarves or blouses tied in a bow, safari suits, coats paired with hot pants. Those were the '60s. Then came the Mondrian shifts, then, to loud applause, the "Le Smoking," tuxedo jackets from the '70s with the ruffled white shirt and, shortly after, their 2002 counterpart, this time with sheer shirt.

The Saint Laurent signature collections from 1962 to 2002 unfolded phase by phase —the Russian Ballet line, the rich fantasy ball gowns, the Oriental tunics, the Spanish phase with its corsets and bolero jackets, the Shakespearean era, the brilliant gold lines and, finally, the all-black evening wear from tuxedos to flowing chiffon and silk. "It's making my hair stand," Tonichi said on the phone as we watched this half-a-century fashion in review, sometimes to the sound of awesome arias. But it wasn't the music that aroused

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LISA Macuja-Elizalde in an outfit inspired by Kitri's ruffled skirt

Quixotic dream, wacky style

Jun de Leon and Eddie Baddeo make these images chase the windmill as Ballet Manila restages 'Don Quixote'

(Story on page D5)

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2002 trends for the non-fashionable

EMPIRE strikes back. By Marc Jacobs for Louis Vuitton's summer collection

SOFTNESS is feminine. By Louis Vuitton

SHIFT dress hides a thick waist. From St. John

DENIM keeps you young. From St. John Sport

From page D1

you, it was the realization of how timeless the clothes were.

As Tonichi and I muttered on the phone, you'd think those collections were made just for today, if **Jerry Hall**, **Mounia** and the models of times past weren't walking down the runway that minute, for they are now in vogue. In this review of his works, Saint Laurent reinforced the meaning of classic—that clothes, to be truly works of art, must be timeless. Trends are time-bound, and designers who set trends are marketing geniuses. But designers who transform trends into timeless clothes eventually prove themselves to be artists and social barometers—Saint Laurent is both. You wonder, since Saint Laurént has done just about everything that could be done with clothes, what is left for the designers of the 2000s to do?

Ah, but we also know that the Gaultiers and the Gallianos of decades-to-come will define the times-to-be in their own terms. Tomorrow, Saint Laurent will just be a marker in fashion history.

Fast-forward to an evening at 78 Orange. The super-young crowd I was about to join that Thursday evening at this hip venue for the L'Oreal launch of Feria might not even have heard of Saint Laurent or, if it did, it probably knew him only as a three-letter brand.

This was only my second time at Orange, but to my kid's friends, that already made me a super-hip mom. By the way, I'm known as the mom who once got them into Orange, just because our Metro associate editor **Freida Dario** is the cousin of Orange's **Manolet Dario**. In the book of my kid's friends, that's cool. Thank God for social connections that can come handy in bridging the generation divide. Hardly do my kid's friends know that I can readily tap such social connections for post-midnight spying on mom's babies-on-the-loose, but then they don't read this column.

Despite my age, I nonetheless felt secure stepping into Orange, first, because I was with Freida who was in a sexy turtle-neck halter and hip-slung jeans; and second, I knew L'Oreal's **Leica Carpo** would be there. It was her big launch for this new top-of-the-line hair color that lent shimmer and character to your locks.

The guests were asked to wear shimmer—which in their fashion dictionary, translated into glitter, dressed-down but glitter nonetheless. Halters, spaghetti straps, tank tops, hanging tees, hip-hugging jeans, minis. Of course, there were the de rigueur denim blazers. Otherwise it was shoulders-and-midribs galore.

FTV's **Candice Reyes** was in a baby tee with a tiny bag traced in sequins on the bodice. **Bianca Araneta** came in a slinky top that bared her narrow middle.

Tim Yap was, of course, in his tunic coat. **Celine Lopez** was in a cool aqua chiffon dress that also bared her porcelain shoulders. Leica, whom I consider as among the most stylish and confident dressers around (watch her accessorize), was in a gossamer red blouse with long sleeves; I like Leica—my long sleeves didn't feel alone with her around.

RETURN of the blouse. From Escada's summer collection

What dawned on me, as I studied the nubile bodies around me, was not only how far removed they were from the Saint Laurent era, but also that in these times, it didn't take elaborate fashion for the young to feel fashionable on their night-out. All they had to do was bare their shoulders, their backs or their midribs, and their toned flesh and creamy skin did the rest. So what market was left for the high-fashion designers who spent decades mastering clothes construction and intricate accentuation? This market was content with cutting off their tees and pulling down their jeans to the hips. And wearing today's fashion must-have: attitude, lots of it, like Tim Yap.

With the night's concocted drink in hand (no red wine that night), I took one look at my flimsy silk ruffled blouse (long sleeves, oh my God!), linen pants (hip-slung, thank God!) and the dangling metal chain belt (I got in Shinjuku in the '80s when Tokyo was Chanel-mad), and I hissed, "I must be the oldest in this crowd." **Pepper Teehankee**, who was busy texting, shot back, "Of course not. Don't say that. Don't ever say that," without, of course, taking his eyes off his cell. (Was just trying to steal your attention, Pepper.)

I was saying it in the fashion sense.

This leads me to the concern of many women out there who, not exactly ingenue anymore, feel marginalized when they turn the fashion pages of the glossies because they don't have the supermodel (all right, super-young) bodies to fit in those clothes. Yet, they want to remain fashion-forward. To this day I still get empathizing feedback from women to my column last year where I said fashion—and retail merchandisers—were leaving out the plus-size market. It's as if this not-so-vocal market has found a voice. And take note that that voice comes with a sufficiently filled wallet.

It's now 2002 and what does fashion hold for this marginalized market? What trends will suit the women out there who have no right—or feel they have no right (rightly so, perhaps)—to flash their shoulders or their navels?

There are lots of trends for you. In fact, the balance is in your favor. Just know what 2002 trends to pick. Offhand, I can name these:

... **The return of the blouse.** Your bulges don't have to be confined in those snug T-shirts anymore. The Romance drift favors blouses that don't necessarily hug the bodice. They come in supple yet billowy chiffons, silks or georgettes that can be ruffled, shirred or ruched. Just make sure the shirring or ruching doesn't fall on your bulge. Soft fabrics can be cut away from the body.

Remember, **softness is feminine.** Today's blouses are ultra-feminine. You can wear them off-shoulder if you have nice shoulders but have big arms. If you don't have the shoulders, you can have the blouse tight-collared and, for that dainty touch, the collar can be tied in a bow. The bow can be your handy camouflage. A blouse with a bow or string is a feminine foil to your severely tailored corporate suit. If you don't want to be stuck with long sleeves and want to bare your arms but are not comfortable about your shoulder line or upper arms, you can puff the sleeves—minor puff, you don't have to resort to leg-of-mutton sleeves. The thing to remember when you want to bare skin, but not bare altogether, is calculated insufficiency. Also, gossamer blouses go with today's lacy high-tech-constructed bras that come in nude colors.

... **Pantsuits.** Or trouser suits. They're the legacy of Saint Laurent and they're a boon to women's imperfect bodies (that means all bodies). Monochromatic color is your best bet because it

2002/ p.D3

BLACK and pantsuits will never die.

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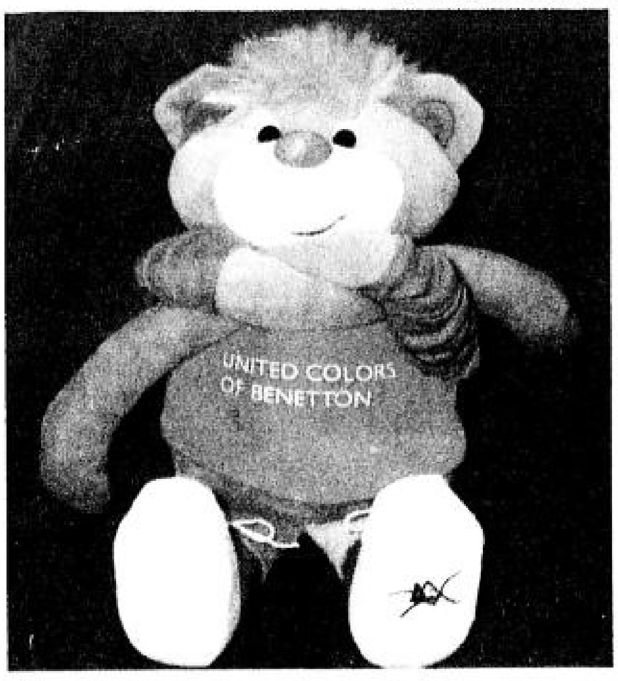

Give this teddy a bear hug

GIFT Gate kicks off the teddy bear's 100th anniversary year with a party for bear lover Martin Nievera on Feb. 3 at the Gift Gate Gallery in Glorietta at 3 p.m. The event features the revival of Martin's Buddy Bear. Bring your classic Buddy Bear dolls to win prizes.

Buddy Bear has a fresh new look. Fashionable in his United Colors of Benetton T-shirt, he now has longer arms to hold you and hold on to whatever you want to accessorize—your bag, your clothes, your car or just about anything else imaginable.

So see you at Martin's party, a Sunday surely filled with fun for the whole family.

End-of-season sales

BRIONI'S FIRST-EVER. This premier menswear brand starts its sale today at the Shangri-La Mall, Mandaluyong. A special 30-percent discount is given on all purchases. Included in the sale are suits, dinner and sports jackets, tuxedoes, classic and flamboyant silk neck and bowties, comfortable men's socks, sport and dress shirts and leather collections.

GO ITALIAN. Take advantage of Linea Italia's ongoing "Price War" to get a pair of Janco Jeans, a brand that has become synonymous with style and quality in Italy. You can also pick any of Janco's latest offerings from comfortable snug-fitters to sexy button-downs in a variety of colors—navy blue, cream, black, green, sky blue, orange and more. With the "Price War," Linea offers a 50-percent discount on all its merchandise. Purchases paid in cash or gift certificates get an additional 20-percent discount. Visit Linea Italia 6750, Versace Jeans Couture (Greenbelt), Prima Linea (Greenbelt, SM Megamall, Ayala Center Cebu), Linea Italia (SM Megamall, Ayala Center Cebu), Linea Uomo (SM Megamall, SM Cebu and Park Square I), Uomo Tu (Greenbelt, Ayala Center Cebu), Viva (SMMegamall, SMCebu), Capolinea (Greenbelt, SM Cebu), and Corso Marconi at Marconi corner Morse Streets, Makati City (main branch), Festival Supermall Alabang, Robinsons Galleria, SM Manila, Cebu, and the new Corso Marconi Bacolod.

TRUE BRIT LABELS. Topshop, Topman and Miss Selfridge go on sale until Feb. 17. Enjoy up to 50-percent discount on a wide selection of casual wear and clubwear. Located on the 2/L Padre Faura Wing, Robinsons Place Manila.

Party in style

PARTY all night long with the latest selections from Hang Ten Philippines.

Boys can have an open Hang Ten short-sleeves polo over a Hang Ten shirt matched with stylish khaki pants or jeans while girls can choose plain or printed Hang Ten tank tops paired with Hang Ten shorts, jeans, or capris.

Zestful, vibrant and colorful, the new selections are especially designed for young Filipinos who love going out with their friends. Style and comfort are the two key considerations in the "It's time to party" collections.

Hang Ten has 31 branches all over Metro Manila, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu (Ayala Center), Iloilo, Davao, SM Pampanga and Gaisano Davao. Loyal patrons may also visit Hang Ten's newest branches in Robinsons Place Pasig, Iloilo City and in SM Davao.

2002 trends for the non-fashionable

From page D2

gives height.

... **Tunics, palazzos, safari jackets, waistcoats and, for evening, the tuxedo jacket.** Again, all legacies of Saint Laurent. Just know how to match, and if you don't, just remember—simplicity is safe, and stylish.

... **Denims.** You don't have to be a teen to pull this off. Denim blazers go with your tank top. Denim skirt, if correctly constructed and matched, can go corporate.

... **Shirtdresses, shifts.**

... **The empire cut.** It's back, and perfect for waists that can't be cinched. With a good neckline, it draws attention to your beautiful neck, which most Filipino women have, and away from your *bilbil*, which also most Filipinas have.

... **Black is the new black.** This only means that after being declared "out"—oh so briefly—black is again the most elegant and dramatic choice for the evening. Unlike the whites, or the black-and-whites, or the neutrals, which temporarily reigned for the evening, black is suddenly not so boring again. The finale of Saint Laurent saw to that.

Now, if the above trends still can't put you in the fashion groove, then perhaps you must do the most sensible thing—follow what **Tina Juan** says every week on this page. Or, you can heed what an exasperated **Auggie Cordero** always tells me when, during fittings, he becomes damn sure my bulges will overrule his design anyway: "*Daanin mo na lang sa* attitude (Just wear the attitude if you can't wear the clothes)."

E-mail the author at tsanjuan @link.com.ph

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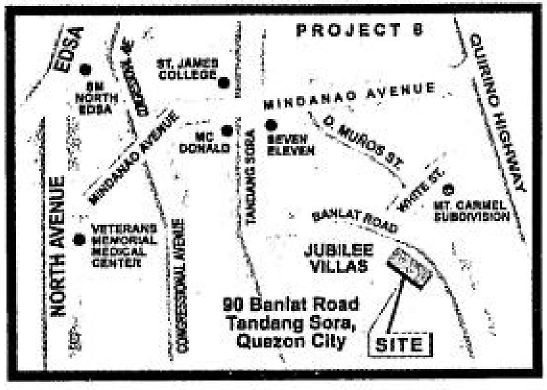

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What inspires *beautiful* women?

TO LAUNCH Oleo-Relax, Kerestase hair-care has selected Manila's stylish women who embody the quality of the brands. Their portraits were taken by celebrity photographer Patrick Uy. Oleo-Relax is a three-set line that includes a smoothing shampoo, a relaxing masque and controlling care formula especially made for women who have problems with their dry, coarse and rebellious hair. It responds to the needs of Asian women who continuously seek smoothness in their hair. What makes them Kerestase's image models? What inspires them?

GENI PSINAKIS

After spending 20 years in the United States and traveling the world, this Lopez scion has come back to her roots. Her restaurant, Mati, offers authentic Greek food.

She says settling in Manila involved a major adjustment. "I had to adjust to the loss of anonymity. I used to not care too much about how I looked." She is still not a makeup fan nor does she go regularly to the salon to get her hair done. This English literature graduate reads such books as Michael Ondaatje's "Anid's Ghost" and David Sedaris' "Naked," a memoir.

TRICIA CU-UNJIENG

This former model considers herself as more of a devoted mom to her three boys. She wakes up midmorning to stay with her 2-year-old, brings and picks up the two other boys to school and brings them to their Spanish and taekwondo classes in the weekend. While she also takes care of a small balloon and party business, it is her family that is her first priority. "I am continuously inspired by my kids. I try to be a really good mom to them, uphold moral values, and be a friend to them." Tricia is the wife of People Asia editor Philip and the daughter of the late jeweler philanthropist Fe Panlilio.

APPLES ABERIN

From catwalk queen to retailer, she now sits as co-editor of the bi-annual bridal bible, Bride and Home. She has become, in her words, "obsessive about putting a magazine together." It might demand a lot of time away from her kids—a 10-year-old daughter and a 2-year-old son—and husband, but Apple says it has given her fulfillment. "When brides from all over give us feedback, that they were able to use our tips, apply our suggestions, that means you get your message across. What you did made someone happy."

CARLA SIBAL

This designer leads the double life of a publisher. After taking courses at the St. Martin's School of Arts in London and finishing a degree in fine arts at Parsons in Paris, Carla joined Rustan's as designer and eventually produced her own label. "Women, in general, influence me," says Carla. "They tell me their needs and their frustrations. And these inspire me to meet their needs."

These days Carla has taken over her father's textbook publishing business, which is increasingly taking a lot of her time.

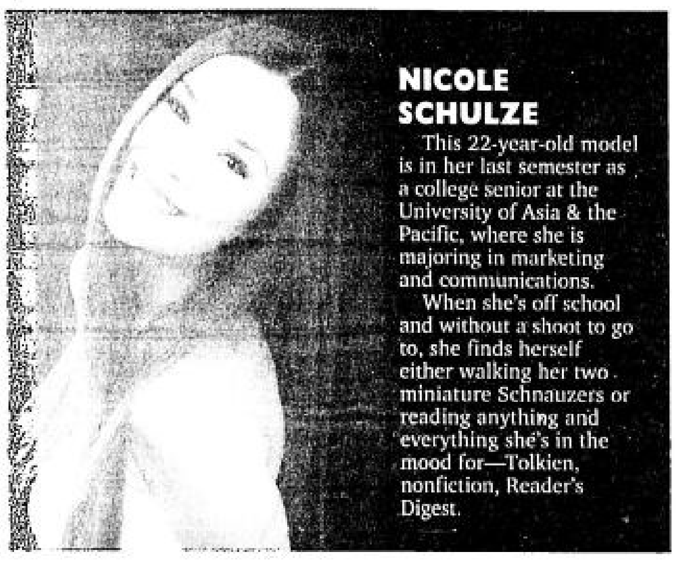
INES DELGADO

At 25, she owns Itsie-Bitsie, a boutique in Malate that specializes in Australian fashion. She holds a post at the Asia Society, a nonprofit organization where she puts together cultural and educational projects, her most favorite being the Metropolitan Museum of Manila leg of "Sheer Realities," an exploration of power in the Philippines in the turn of the century through clothing and accessories.

"What inspires me is being with people who appreciate not just beauty but hard work as well," she says.

SUSAN REYES

"As you grow older and wiser, you realize you don't need so much anymore in your life," says the ex-model when asked what kind of material luxuries she likes to indulge in. Formerly in the real estate business, she began her professional career in the marketing division of Rustan's, and even owned a boutique. Susan these days is busy setting up a service-oriented business. She's done with self-help books, and now prefers fiction. She travels regularly, her favorite places in the world being Isla Naburot in the Guimaras Island, and "any city in Europe." She keeps a journal, a therapeutic activity she started when she lost a loved one a few years back. "I get my inspiration from the goodness of people I know or encounter every day in my life—the basic goodness of people."



NICOLE SCHULZE

This 22-year-old model is in her last semester as a college senior at the University of Asia & the Pacific, where she is majoring in marketing and communications.

When she's off school and without a shoot to go to, she finds herself either walking her two miniature Schnauzers or reading anything and everything she's in the mood for—Tolkien, nonfiction, Reader's Digest.

BEA VALDES

This 28-year-old interior designer, makes accessories and writes a column for People Asia. She studied creative writing and shifted to industrial design at the University of the Philippines and pursued further studies in the arts in London.

What inspires her? "People who have a great sense of wonder."

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Quixotic dream wacky style

By Marge C. Enriquez

TTITUDE! I want you to show it: Don't just jump!"

"We were too busy thinking of how to jump that we didn't think about our expression."

This is not a discourse betwee allet master and a dancer. It is actualy a discussion between photographer Jun de Leon, who is very passionate about his work, and the models, who happen to be ballerinas and who are now looking at their Polaroid test shots.

Pictorial director Tonton Santos points out that one dancer is out of line with the ensemble. The dancers tease her for being off count.

On the stage of Star City Theater, the female soloists of Ballet Manila are dressed in Eddie Baddeo's outlandish clothes. The design concept is loosely based on the costumes of BM's forthcoming show, "Don Quixote," and reeks of Baddeo's brand of wackiness.

The dancers' hanky-drop chiffon skirts are inspired by the gypsy skirts in "Don Q," but the tops are made from modern materials such as gold buckles, credit cards, wires, compact discs and car metal.

For BM's artistic director, Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, Baddeo creates a golden, multitiered metallic skirt, inspired by Kitri's costume. A hundred pieces of semiprecious stones are encrusted on the chain-filled bra top. The second costume is a gold top, consisting of 100 belt buckles, adorned with metallic beads, that goes with a pair of red chiffon sarong pants with an asymmetric overskirt.

Melanie Motus wears a lead top and matching neckpiece. Baddeo says this top is easy to make because the material easily conforms to the body contours. Melanie's skullcap is filled with bird feathers.

On Pamela Asprer, the top is made from sliced compact discs with a matching headdress. Elline Damian changes into a top made from the fender of an old Nissan. An auto repair shop remolded the fender to fit female form. For Aileen Gallinera, Sandra Lynn Huang and Damian, their tops are made from old plastic credit cards.

"This is the real me," declares Baddeo. When he made his foray into the fashion scene, he knocked people's socks off when he used Venetian blinds, compact discs and credit cards for his clothes. They were paired with equally unusual bottoms.

"I wanted to establish myself then," said Baddeo. The tact worked as he became known as "*luka-luka*" or the Wild Boy of fashion.

The hair and makeup, done by Eric Maningat and Marlon Suarez, are as wild as the concept. The two-inch long eyelashes are created from human hair that has been sewn into nylon threads and glued with nail polish and flipped with a curling rod. They are painted in watercolors that match the exact shade of the soloists' costumes.

The total look has to be matched with emotions. De Leon coaxes the dancers to project their emotions like a rehearsal master pushing his protégés. There's a force in the creative process that's giving rather than consuming. His energy flows like a river channeled between the banks of a city. The river enhances, rather than interrupts, the graceful urban masterpiece.

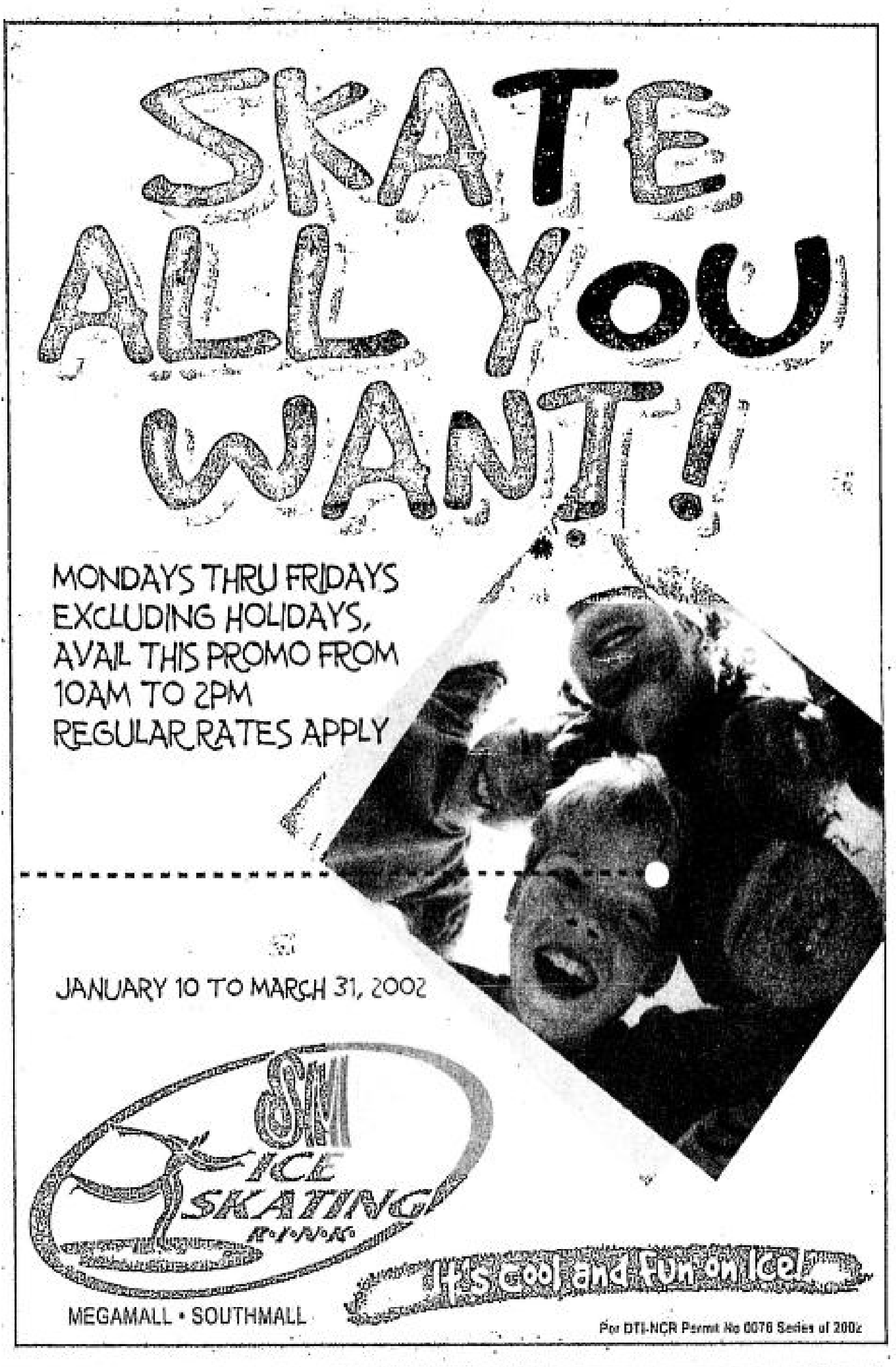
Photos on page D6

Revue and ballet rolled into one

Following the success of "Belen," Circus de Ballet will present "Belen-Tines" for its Valentine offering. Ballet Manila has to work doubly hard because they will perform "Don Quixote" back to back with the circus act. Whew! Balletomanes in Manila may have grown weary of counting Kitri's fouettés or whipped turns in "Don Q's" last act.

Lisa Macuja-Elizalde's alternates as Kitri are Ailleen Gallinera and Pamela Asprer. Playing Basilio are Osias Barroso, Jeffrey Espejo and his brother Eduardo. BM has just lost its dashing soloist, Christopher Mohnani, to Nashville Ballet.

(Ballet Manila will present "Don Quixote" at the Star City Theater from Feb. 15-18 and Feb. 22-24. Showtime at 7 p.m., with Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Call 525-5967, 512-5031 to 32 or 525-1584.)



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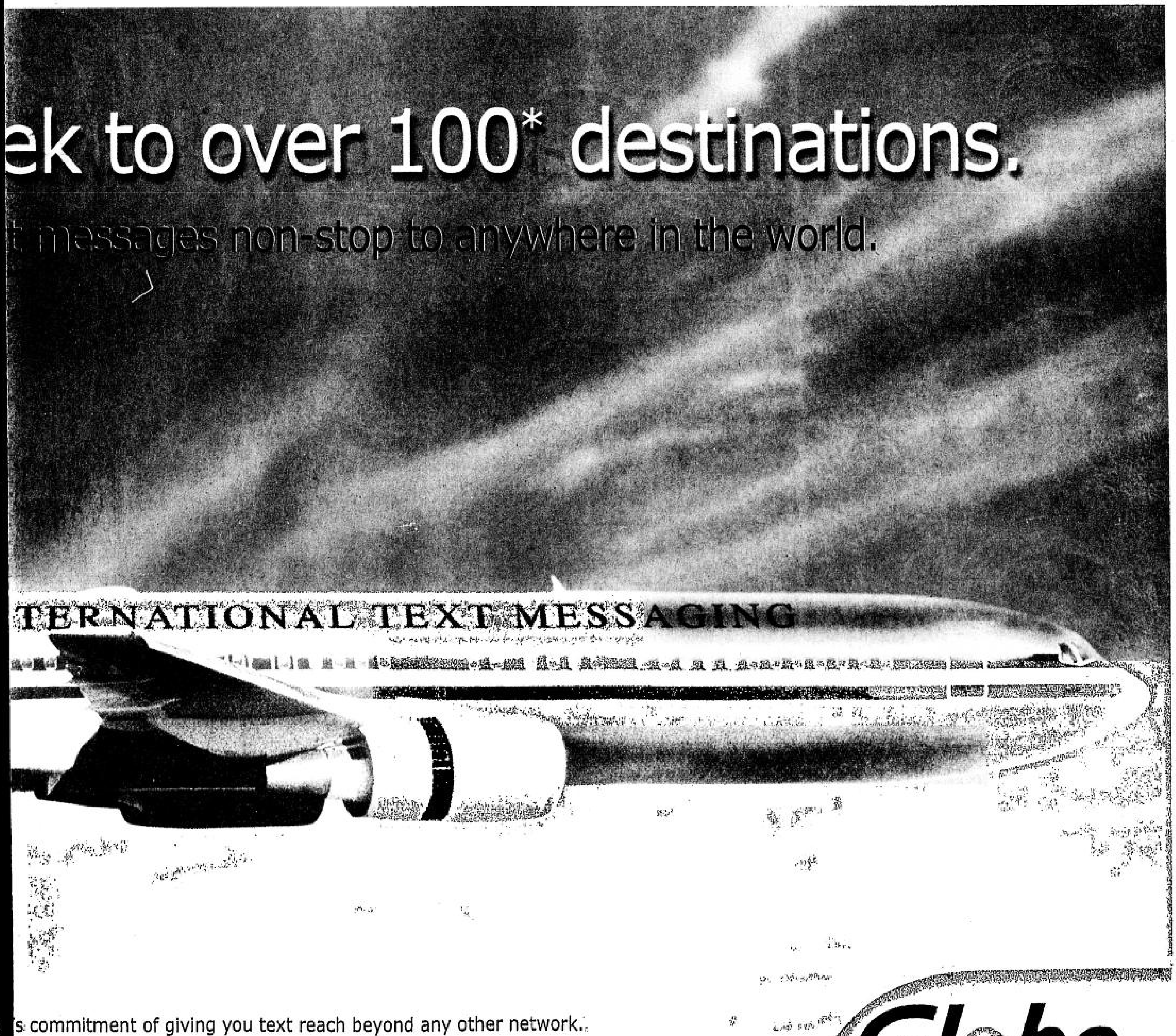

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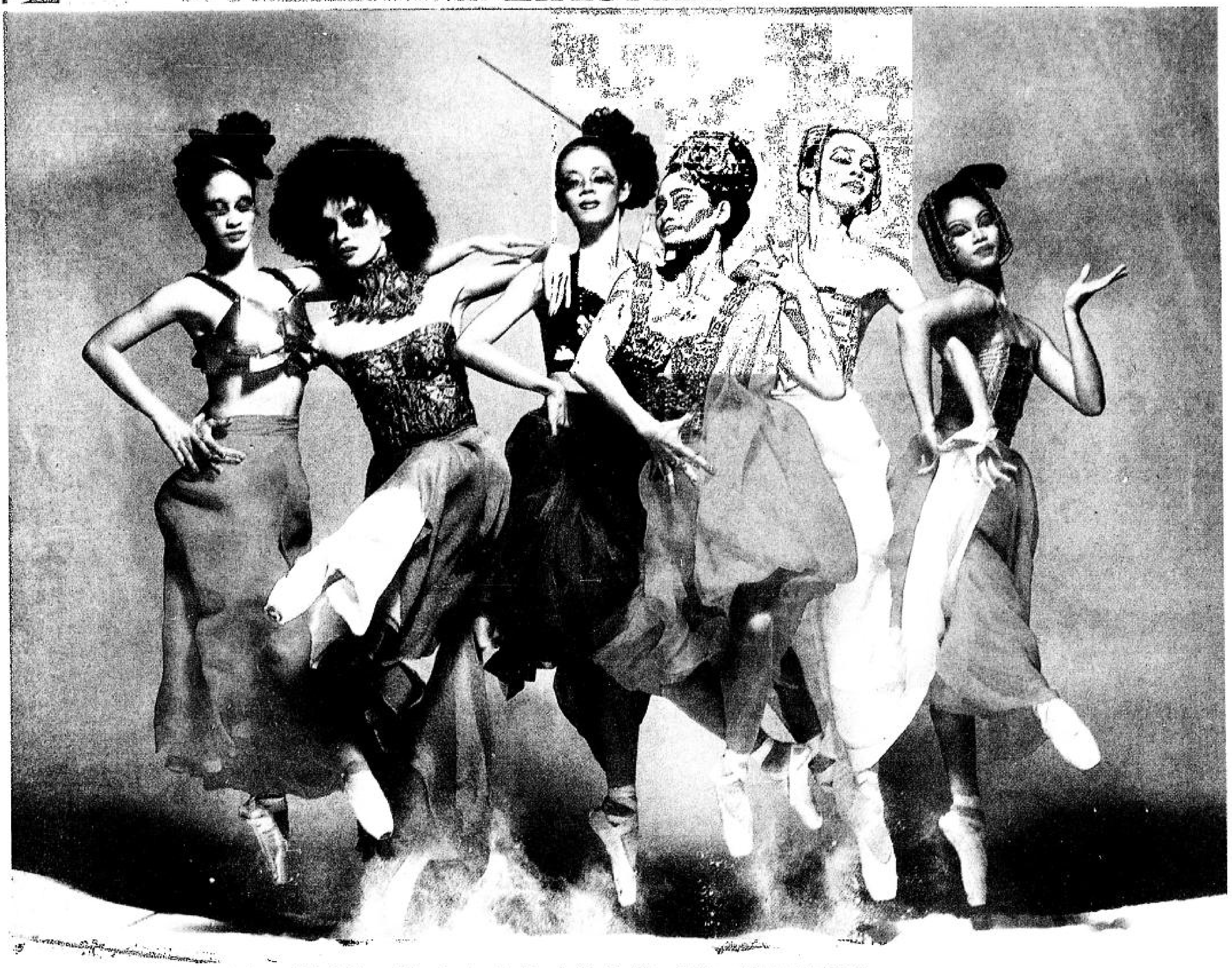
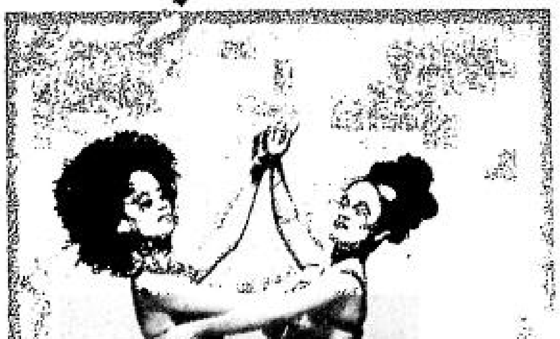


ATTITUDE VS ALTITUDE. Pamela Asprer, Melanie Motus, Elline Damian, Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, Aileen Gallinera, Sandra Lyn Huang

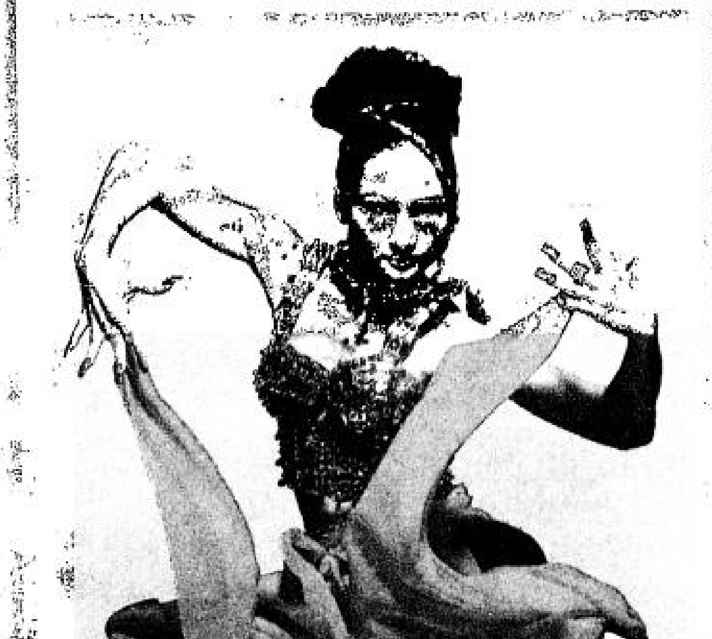
Quixotic dream, wacky style

Photographs by Jun de Leon
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS

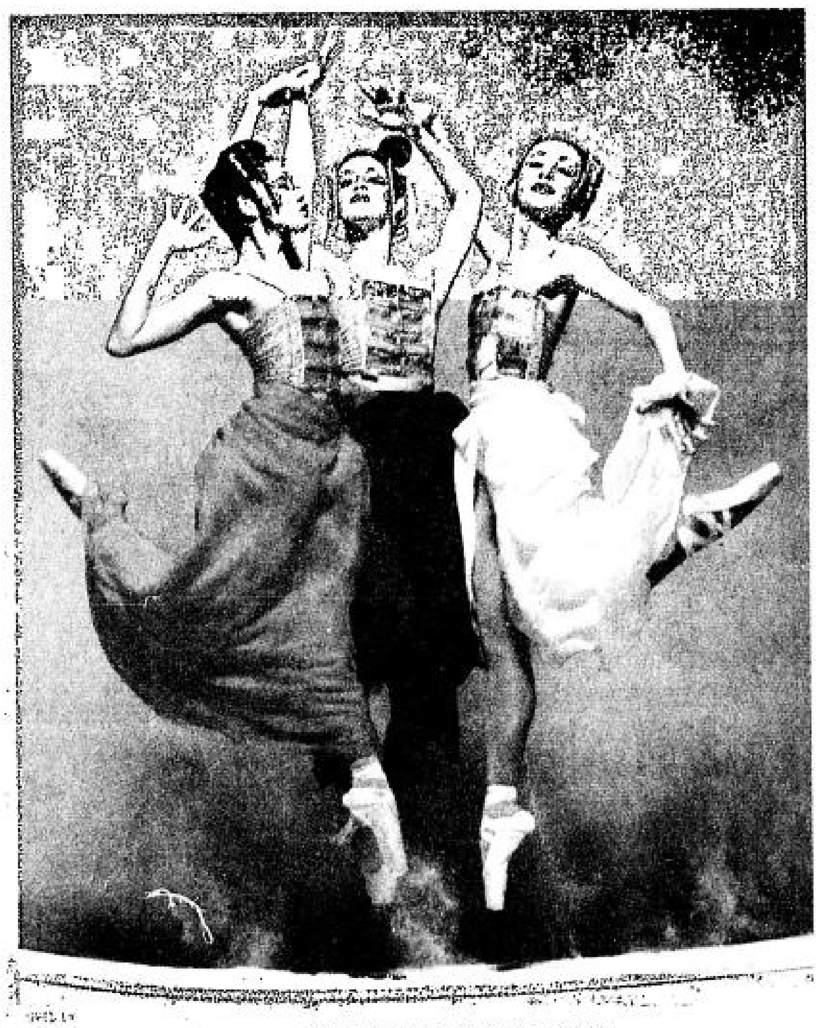
In a display of savvy marketing and bold vision, Ballet Manila will present Circus Ballet's 'Belen-Times' and 'Don Quixote' back to back



INDUSTRIAL MUSES.
Motus wears a lead top and neckpiece while Asprer's compact body is matched with compact discs.

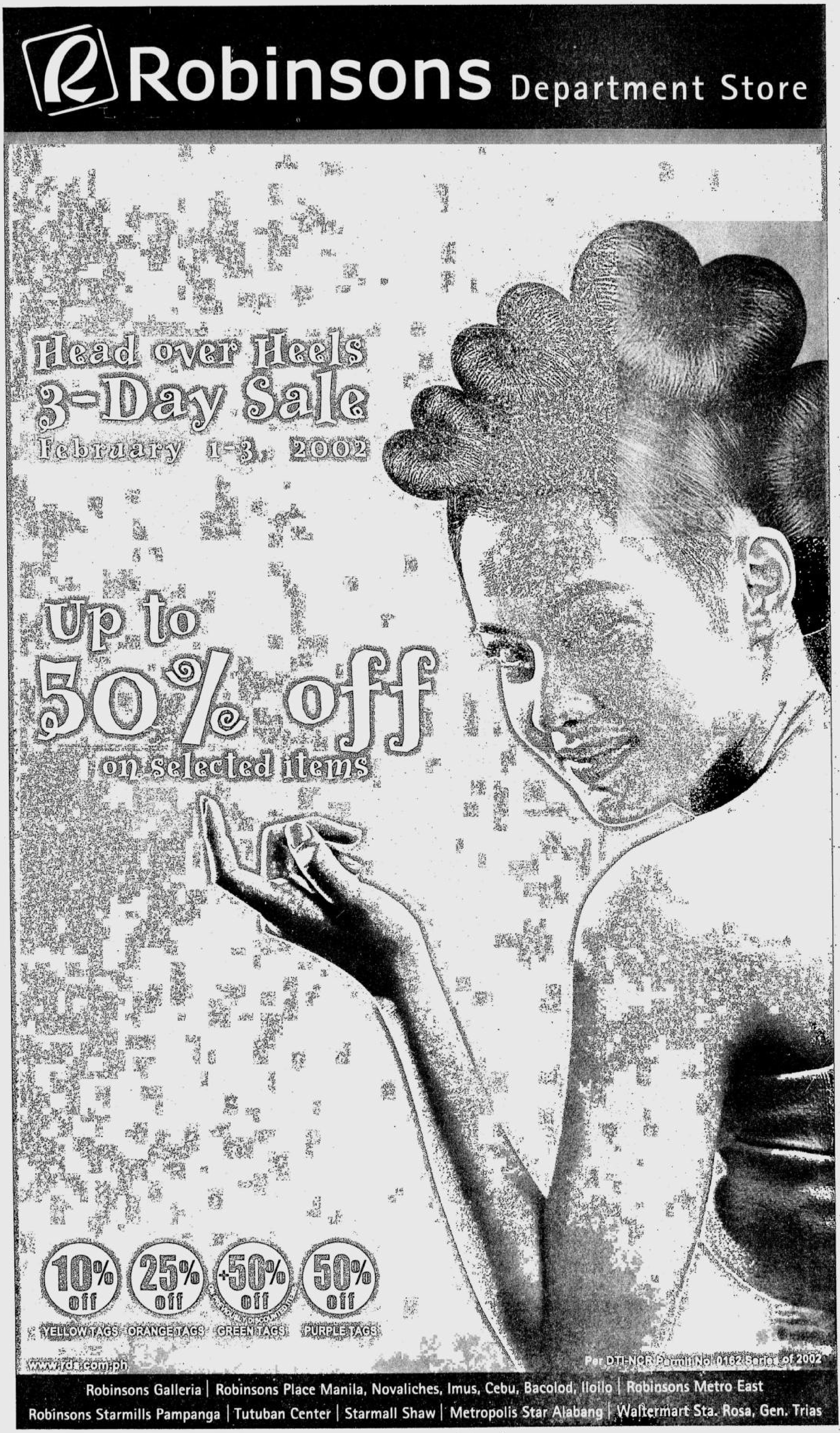


COLORS OF PROSPERITY.
Lisa wears a top made of gold buckles and red sarong pants with an overskirt.



CHARGED PERFORMANCE.
Huang, Damian and Gallinera in credit card tops, wired headdresses and chiffon skirts.

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY
ERIC MANINGAT
AND MARLON SUAREZ
LOCATION
STAR CITY THEATER
PAGEDESIGN BY
LYNETT A. VILLARIBA



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LIFESTYLE Home

THE LANAI, breathing air into the house, flows with symmetry in structural assemblages made of *molave* wood, steel and slabs of concrete. The row of river pebbles bridges the gap between the tiled flooring and the sea of grass.

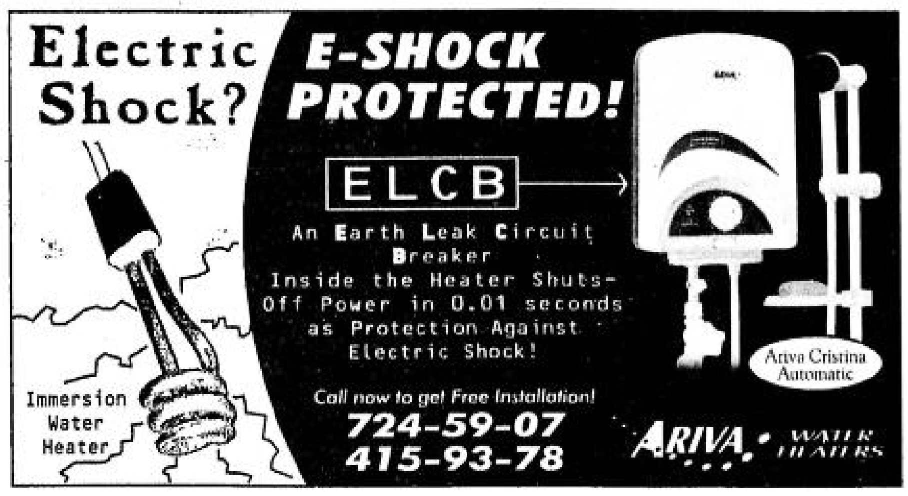
Refreshing interplay of old and new

By Cathy Saldana-Nolido
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

STRIKING and pristine are the lines in the recently renovated home of renowned ophthalmologist Tim Jimenez and his wife Maggie. Taking hold of the responsibility, reviewing the possibilities before and the concepts after and bestowing upon the project a uniquely clean signature is Eduardo Calma, architect and designer of progressive forms.

The renovation was certainly more than just a face-lift, almost like launching a full-scale construction project from ground up. Beset with the gifted doctor's need to streamline and employ updated volumes in his expanse of space, Ed provided much more. He

REFRESHING/ p.E5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Content by FROSTY-M

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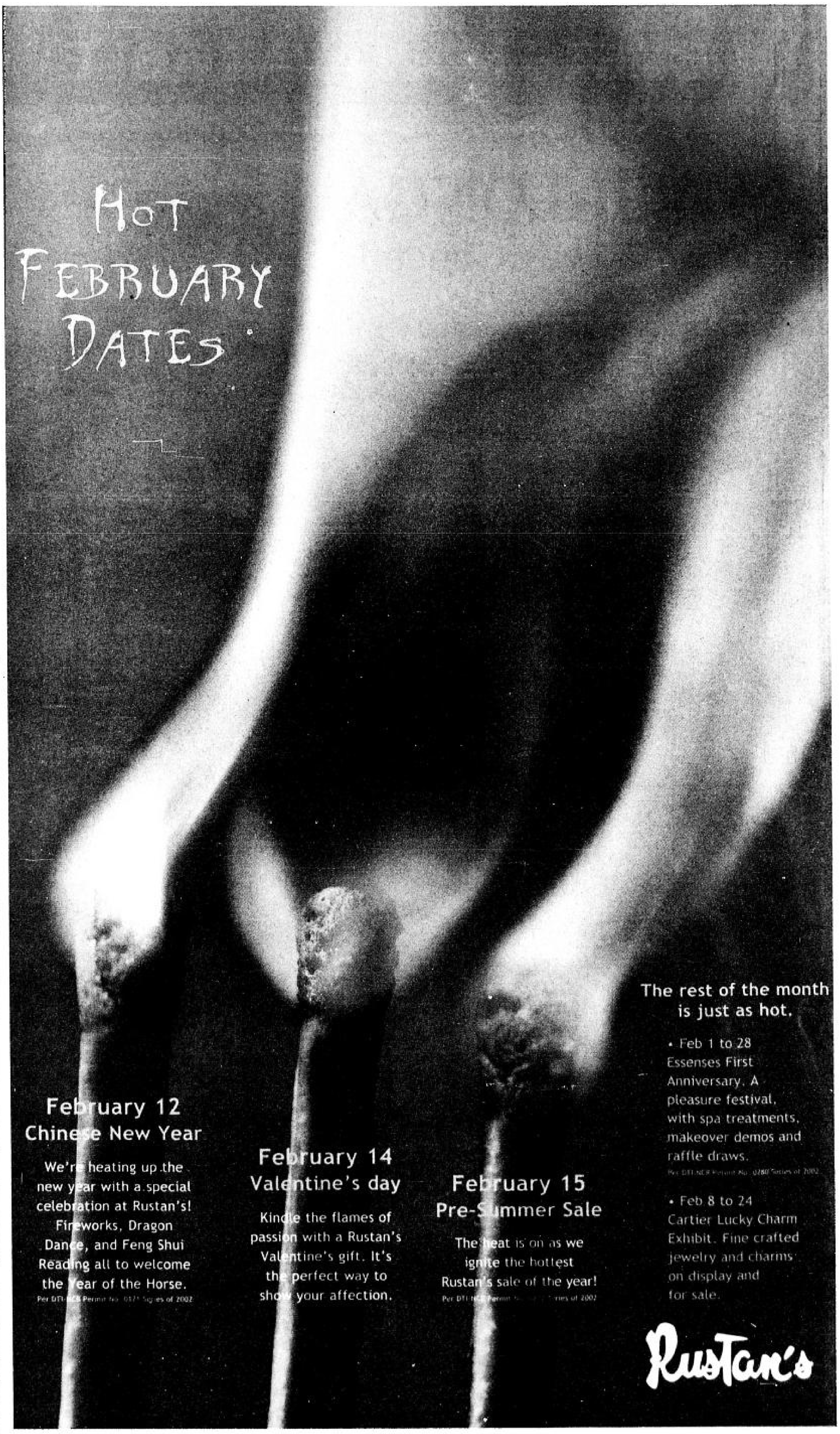


February 12
Chinese New Year
We're heating up the new year with a special celebration at Rustan's! Fireworks, Dragon Dance, and Feng Shui Reading all to welcome the Year of the Horse.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0171 Series of 2002

February 14
Valentine's day
Kindle the flames of passion with a Rustan's Valentine's gift. It's the perfect way to show your affection.

February 15
Pre-Summer Sale
The heat is on as we ignite the hottest Rustan's sale of the year!
Per DTI-NCR Permit [illegible] Series of 2002

The rest of the month is just as hot.
- Feb 1 to 28 Essenses First Anniversary. A pleasure festival, with spa treatments, makeover demos and raffle draws.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0280 Series of 2002
- Feb 8 to 24 Cartier Lucky Charm Exhibit. Fine crafted jewelry and charms on display and for sale.

Rustan's

Biodiversity ensures human survival

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

WHERE I live in Parañaque, I wake up at dawn to the chirping and whooping of birds, and find entertainment at sunup from fluttering butterflies darting in and out of their food plants, which in our yard are citrus saplings and santan bushes. We're not exactly in what can be called a "posh" location, but with those birds and butterflies around me, I feel very, very rich.

What makes me such a Pollyanna about my surroundings is knowing that, as those birds and butterflies still thrive in our area, their habitats here must still be intact. And in the natural order of things, if these creatures are doing well in one place, other living things, many of them existing in symbiotic relationships, must also be doing well. That augurs well not only for my little garden, but also for those of my neighbors' and, hopefully, gardens beyond.

Horror stories

This happy state of affairs in my part of the world is heartening because I hear more and more about how close we are to a worldwide environmental catastrophe. Learning of this is worse than reading Stephen King. They're horror stories made more horrible because they're happening right in our midst. We have only to be reminded that everything is going wrong with our garbage collection system. Our lifestyles tend to pollute rather than clean. And, it seems our whole way of thinking needs to be turned around as well. No wonder humans have been found guilty of causing it all. The destruction of our forests and aquatic resources, the changes in the weather due to ozone layer depletion are all negative effects of nature abuse and blame is being laid on our laps.

Take the matter of land development, which is deemed necessary for progress.

Even this is now subject to scrutiny and rethinking. Vast tracts are being developed for cultivation or into complexes, turning wild areas into comfortable enclaves for human communities. In the process, many of the earth's other creatures are displaced, some of them even destroyed forever.

Environmental scientists are expressing alarm over this, and with good reason. One of them, Niles Eldredge, curator of the American Museum of National History, is appalled at how much natural areas are being reduced in favor of agriculture and human settlements. This reduction, he says, is now affecting our biodiversity.

> Losses of species tell us all is not well in the world

"Is agriculture to blame, too?" one may ask. Yes, Eldredge replies, because ever since agriculture was "invented," man has cut down forests and cleared the wilds to the point that wildlife has had to seek other habitats not always congenial to them.

Return to the past

There should be ways for us to return to the ways of our early ancestors who lived along with nature, not against it. Early man used the bounties of nature for his needs without exceeding his demands. Eldredge acknowledges that there were no runaway populations then as we have today to compound the problem. But precisely because of this, man has to use his advanced knowledge and technology to arrive at some feasible solution.

Eldredge writes of the loss of biodiversity as one of the great extinctions in the life of this planet (one of these, we presume, being the disappearance of dinosaurs). He mentions extinct animals like the *quagga*, which he describes as a zebra-like horse species; the dodo, a giant flightless pigeon living on the island of Mauritius; and the passenger pigeon, a North American species.

The disappearances are alarming in themselves, but they also carry a deeper significance for the loss of even one species serves as a litmus test of the health of the ecosystem. Losses of species are like early warning devices. They tell us all is not well in the world and that we must look into the causes of these losses and correct them before we lose ourselves.

Now, doesn't that sound truly scary? Eldredge also emphasizes that we may be losing species and specimens that we have not even discovered, another big tragedy. So many plants that could have saved lives had we only been aware of them and their potential. So many animals that could have served man in direct or indirect ways, had they only survived. As things stand today, scientists have still to agree on how many species of flora and fauna there are in the world.

Show respect

And even while they calculate, some species are already gone, like the frogs and other amphibians that are no longer found in their usual haunts due, it is said, to ultraviolet ray exposure, an effect of climate change. Eldredge also mentions the northern spotted owl of the Pacific Northwest, which disappeared when it lost its habitat.

What all these point to is that man must show more respect for his "natural surroundings" and that he must value the biodiversity that springs from those surroundings. To Eldredge, that's what makes human survival possible and human life fulfilling.

Meanwhile, let me enjoy the chirping of birds and the flutter of butterflies in my garden. Not too many have that luxury.

Seminar on mental health set

THE CENTER for Psycho-Spiritual Enrichment and Social Services will hold a seminar-workshop, "Enhancing Mental Health, Enneagram and MBTI," from Feb. 6-7 at the Graduate School, University of Santo Tomas, España, Manila. Registration fee is P700, inclusive of two days' snacks, one lunch, a kit for seminar and certificates to be issued each day.

GOINGS-ON

REUNION. The Colegio de San Agustin Makati Alumni Association Inc. will hold a grand reunion and alumni homecoming on Feb. 9 at the Covered Courts of Colegio de San Agustin, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City. Call Lory Tansingco at 844-2006 or (0915) 704-6729, Rodolfo Reyes at 687-3973 to 77 or (0917) 818-4659, Rene Manas at (0917) 530-8819, Raul Castillo at 838-6956 or (0917) 529-4497, Paolo Rivera at 752-6343 or (0918) 911-5980 and Tinette Capistrano at 896-0661 or (0917) 811-3886.

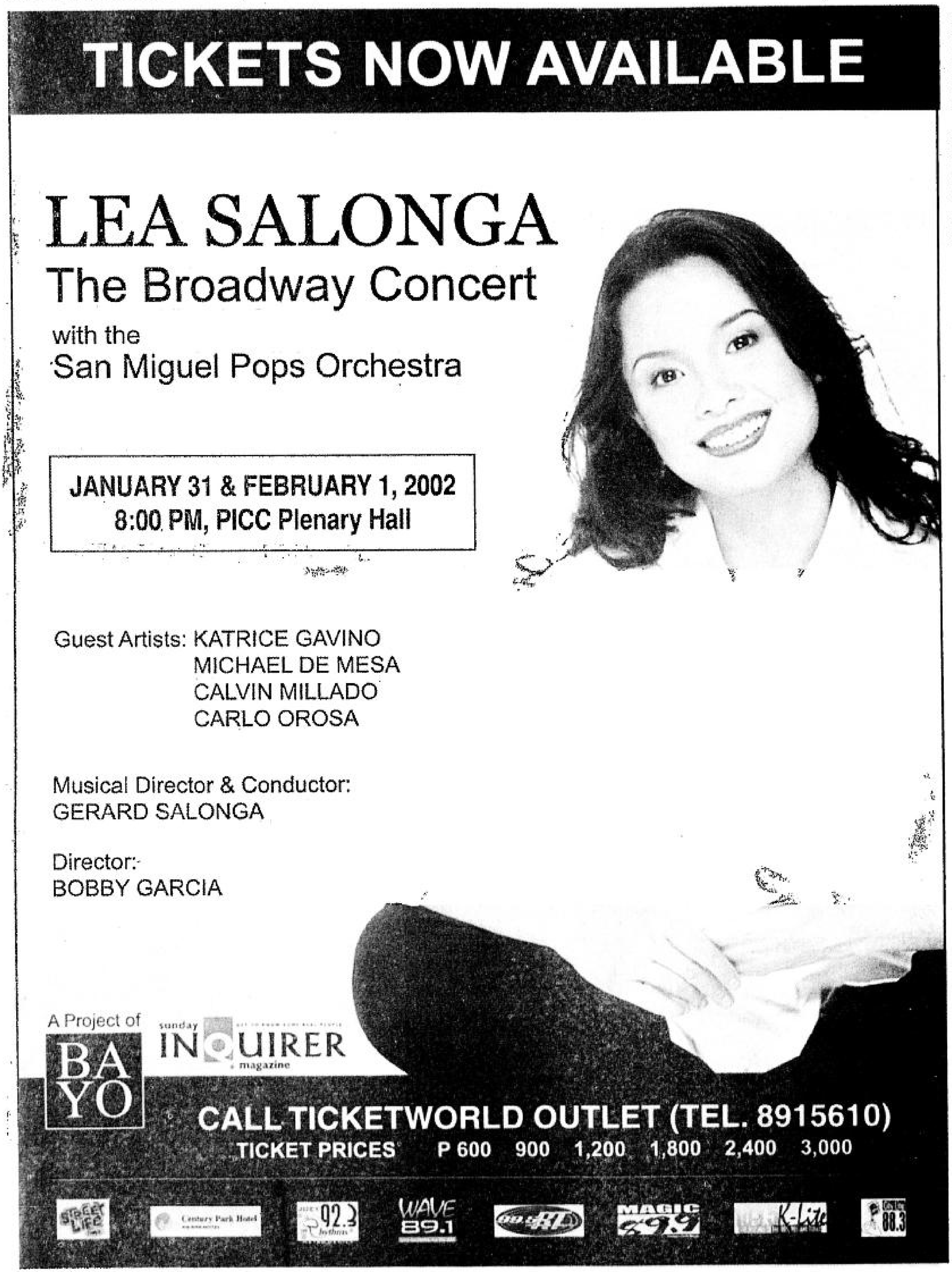
EDUCATION FAIR. Thames International Business School is participating in the "Global Minds: UK Education Fair 2002" today and tomorrow at the Kamia Room, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Representatives from the Thames UK affiliate schools like Coventry University, Middlesex University, Oxford Brookes University and Thames Valley University will answer inquiries on admission procedures, courses, and work and career opportunities. Thames will also conduct admission examinations and interviews at the fair. Results will be available on the same day. Orientation will also be given to parents of high school students and other interested students. "Global Minds: UK Education Fair 2002" will move to Cebu on Feb. 3 and 4 at the Marriot Hotel. Call 723-2202, 727-0924/0930 or 723-2297.

PERFORMANCE. The Nayong Pilipino Foundation Inc., under Evelyn L. Kilayko and executive director Charito Planas, presents the Association of Ballet Academies Phils. (Abap) in a special tribute performance, "Abap Dance Caravan," on Feb. 2 at the Mindanao Pavilion.

COMPETITION. The Rotary Club of Makati-Salcedo will hold a nationwide quiz competition from Feb. 4-6 at Southville Foreign Colleges, BE International, Las Piñas City. Dubbed "Global Dimensions Olympiad," it is open to fourth year high school students interested in social studies and a global education. Call Joyce, Alexa or Dianne at 820-5952/9181, 825-5147 or (0919) 632-4520.

PROGRAM. Kythe Inc., the first proponent in the Philippines of the internationally acclaimed Child Life Program, hosts an event-filled weeklong celebration to mark its 10th anniversary from Feb. 5-9. Activities will include kiddie pet therapy, kite flying, *lugawan* for a cause, blood donation, breast examination, live band concert, thanksgiving mass as well as "Be a Kyther for a Day" to underscore this year's theme, "A Tribute to Kythe Volunteers." The public is invited to participate in the events that will be held at Kythe's home base, East Avenue Medical Center, and at the Ateneo de Manila University. Call 922-6370 or 928-0611 local 263.

ANNUAL REUNION. The second annual reunion of the United States International Visitor Program (IVP) alumni will be held on Feb. 9, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m., at the main lobby and theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The IVP is an annual exchange activity administered by the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy. It invites leading Filipinos from various sectors of society to visit and meet with American counterparts, and exchange views and expertise on issues of mutual professional interest and concern. Call Justice Zenaida Elepano, overall chair of the reunion's organizing committee, at 524-9260/9883, or IVP-Phil. chair Aniceto Sobrepeña at 817-1435 or 898-9889.



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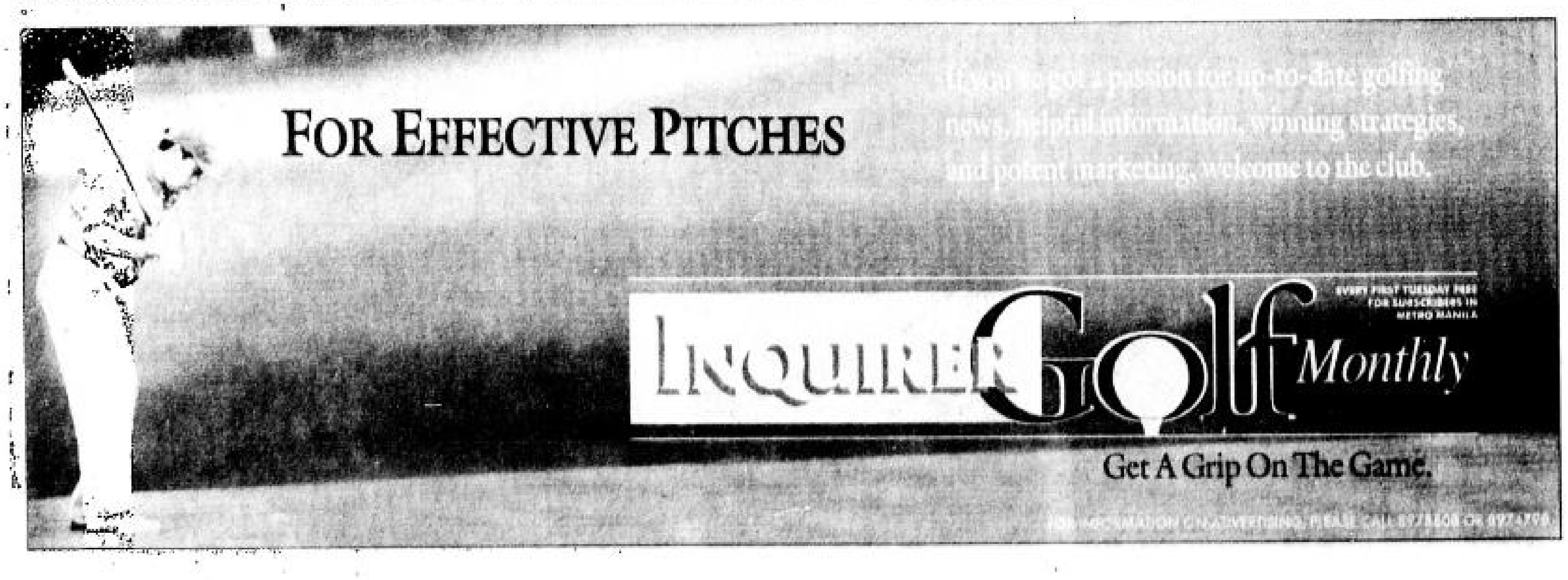

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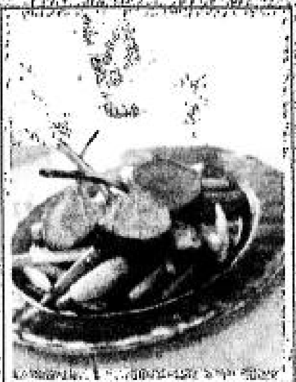

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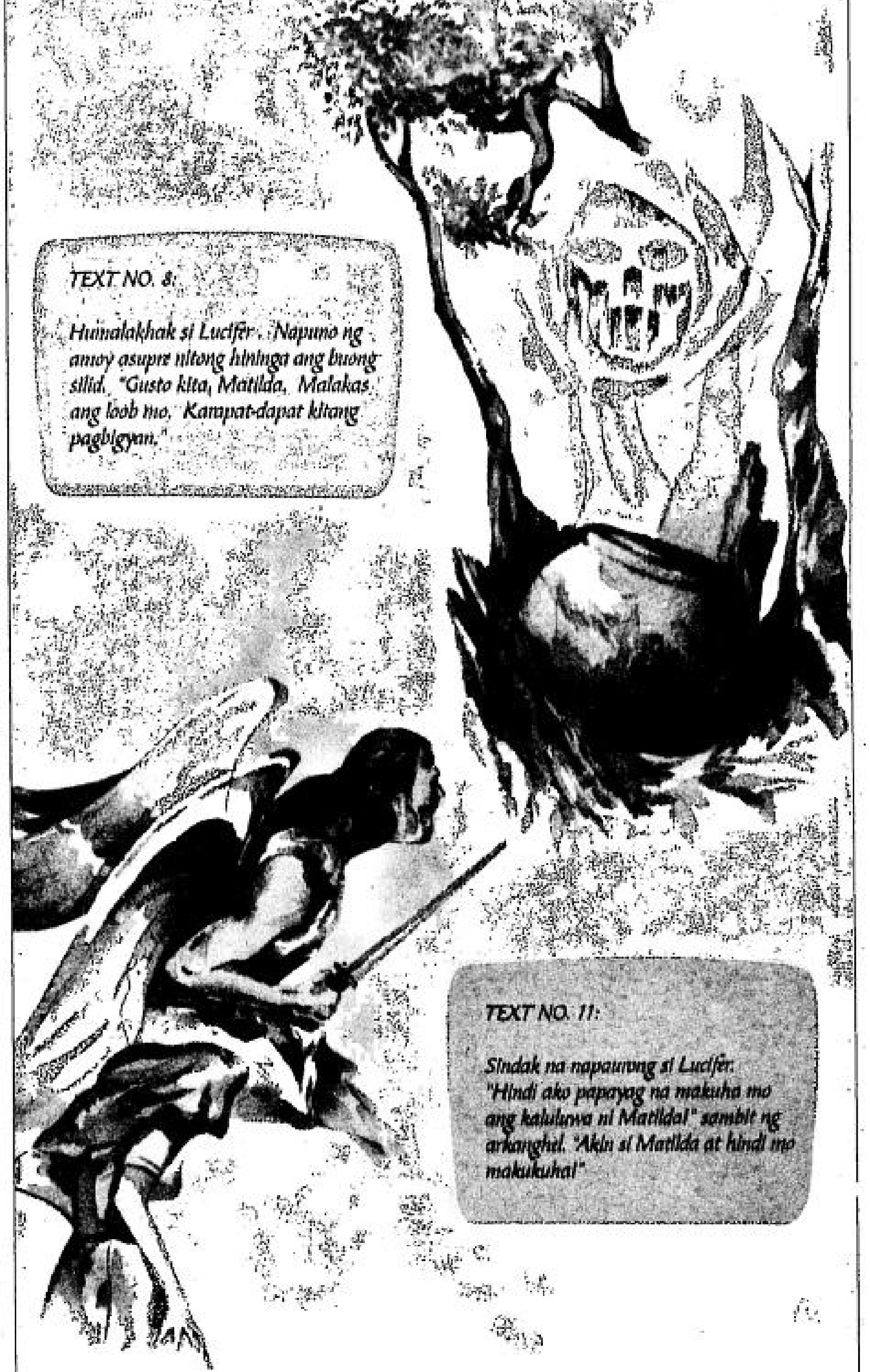


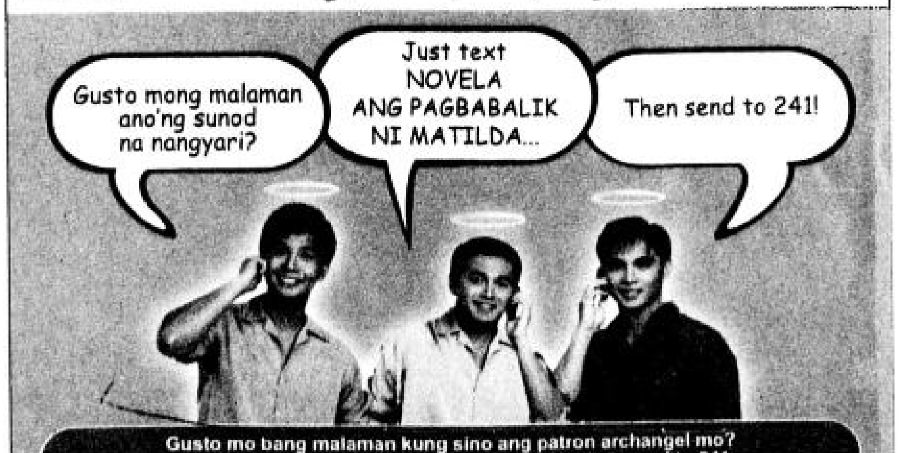
TEXT NO. 8:

Humalakhak si Lucifer. Napuno ng amoy asupre nitong hininga ang buong silid. "Gusto kita, Matilda. Malakas ang loob mo. Karapat-dapat kitang pagbigyan."

TEXT NO. 11:

Sindak na napaurong si Lucifer. "Hindi ako papayag na makuha mo ang kaluluwa ni Matilda!" sambit ng arkanghel. "Akin si Matilda at hindi mo makukuha!"

Sino ang magwawagi ng kaluluwa ni Matilda?
Makaligtas kaya siyang muli?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Refreshing interplay of old and new

From page E1

opted for a wonderful compromise that kept the elements of simplicity intact, even with the immense collection of art that the Jimenezes keep.

Showcase

To showcase the paintings and décor, alongside a parade of sports trophies, the architect created a loft from a generated space. In it he installed a family gallery, using glass and concrete portals, with niches and rows of paintings.

A zone of uncluttered volumes was achieved in the central portion of the home, leading layers of space to expand into the foyer, to the living areas and to the garden that stretched beyond. With a decisiveness that moved in one fluid design motion, Calma met the noted doctor's demand for a modern piece of domestic architecture.

The home's distinct progressive design is clear from the many details that speak of coherence. Matching light with planes of glass, presenting portraits of rooms dominated by geometry and stark rendering, the house radiates depth at every angle, accented with channels of illumination. At night, the house glows like a lantern, with yellow lights against a backdrop of stone and grass gardens, encased in framed glazing that reflects the tones of wood harmonizing on the tables, on the ceiling panels, on the cabinets.

With Calma's masterful strokes, the old ceiling and roof gave way to a height and a proportion that scaled six meters up. A hallway that led to the bedrooms was generated vertically with a loft. More ceiling space was harnessed for the kitchen, allowing wafts of hot air to rise out through shafts way above. Well-ventilated spaces carried over the serene theme of the house.

Landscape artist Benny Velasco consistently employed the same approach, reducing the clutter of overgrown plants, opting instead for a clean spread of greenery marked by a border of gray river stones. Following the theme of the house, he carefully laid each burst of fern and palm with minimalist discipline. As the garden was done after the house had been completed, the landscaping could certainly match the dwelling's design intent. Where the interiors and the gardens meet is the lanai, tiled with a non-skid surface, laid out in uniformed pattern. A great portion of the lanai and garden that was once the family swimming pool has been covered up after the children have grown and left the parents' home.

Highlighting a contrast

Architecture played a key role in clustering the furniture, distinctly different as they are. Most of the old pieces were kept, highlighting a contrast between the clean wall paneling and the ornately carved furnishings that were part of the home before. Of importance too are the traditionally recognized paintings and sculptures. Such surprises in corners and coves break the spell of expectations that accompany modernist nuances.

Refreshing, indeed, is the possibility that arises out of the interplay of the old and the new, out of finding a vestibule of jars and ceramics, grand paintings and period chairs amid a design statement that breathes of clean, pure and uncluttered interiors. Niches are encrusted on the walls, lit up to highlight a particular object of art, a sentimental piece of immense value glowing anew in this progressively designed enclosure. Once these prized pieces were displayed in a traditional, predictable setting. Now they regale the proud homeowners with the contrast that the new enclosures present, their delicate and fragile character warming every nook and corner.

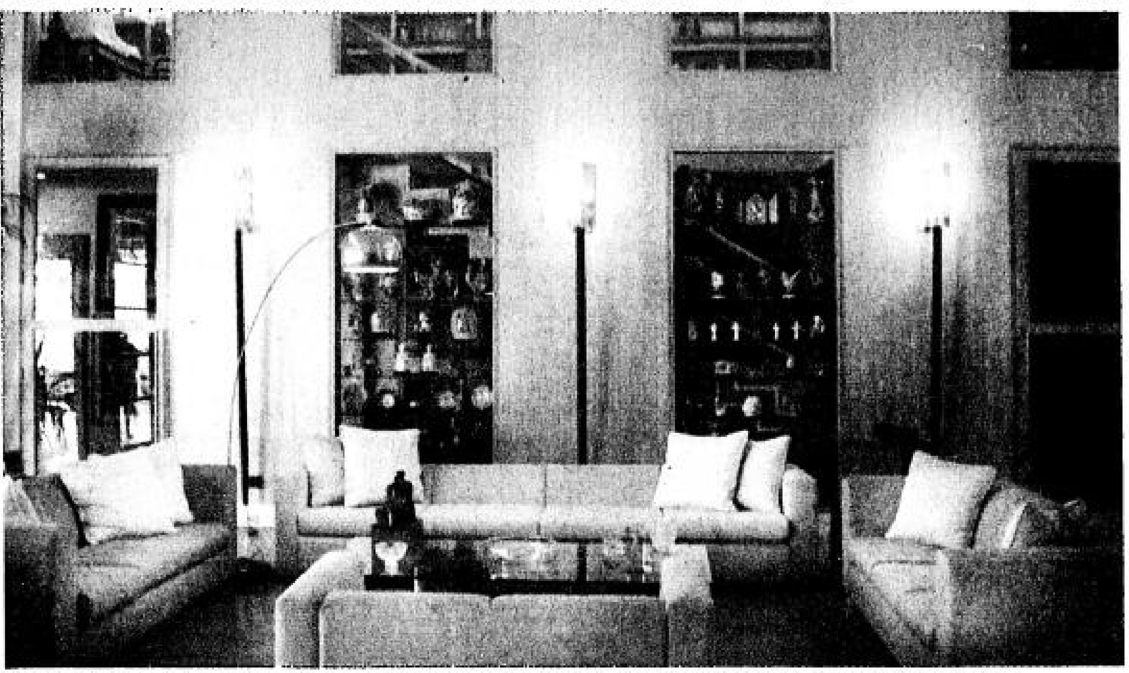
As Tim and Maggie Jimenez share the passion for art and thus have a need for organizing all their collections, they also have to segregate books and journals in one room. And so the new loft also serves as library, computer area and poker room where they can check their e-mail and do paperwork in a sea of Olazos, Bencabs and Joyas on the walls.

It is certainly usual that an upscale home like this one in North Forbes is filled with art treasures meant to be passed down to the succeeding generations. However, it is also expected that the houses in which these collections are to be found reflect traditionally accepted, predictably arranged settings. Yet in the Jimenez home, with the reassurance that warmth and comfort will still prevail, the emergence of a progressively designed, modern house showcases the reality that masters of space like Ed Calma can arrange wonders heretofore unimagined.

E-mail the author at cnolido@aimonline.org

REFRESHING/ p.E6

> In the loft that architect Eduardo Calma created are lit niches for the family's prized pieces that were once displayed in a traditional, predictable setting



BEHOLD more space, generated in this loft behind the wall of veneer and glass, following the design instructions for the renovation project. Icon collections from Greece and Murano glass sculptures are displayed. Ceramics and jars from China share the space as do figurines from Germany. Organizing the collections bridges the intentions of the future with the links to the past.

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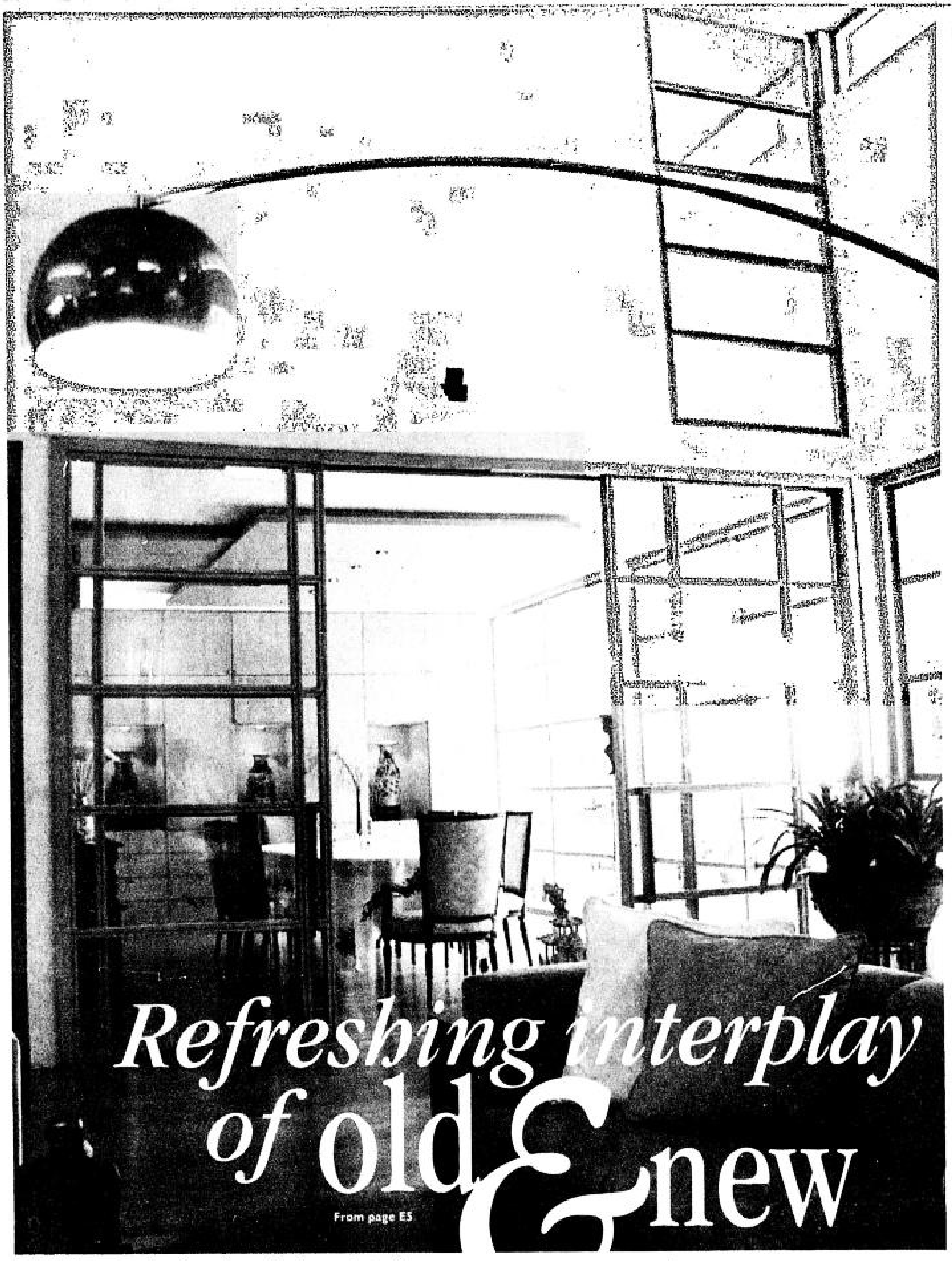
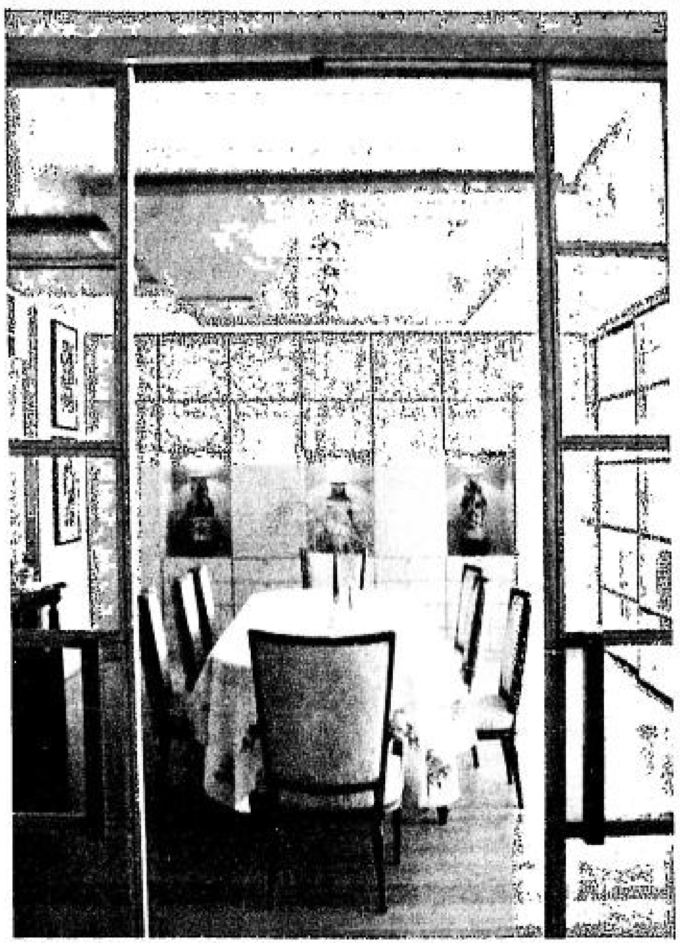
Refreshing interplay of old & new

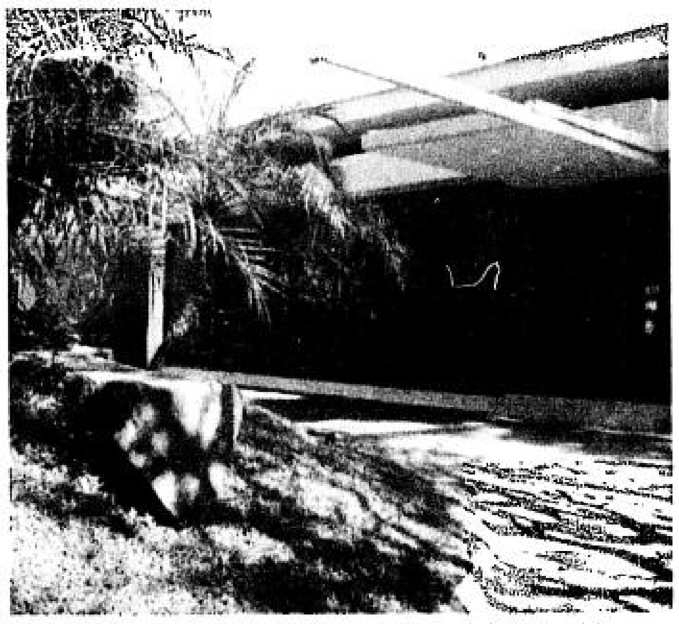
From page E5



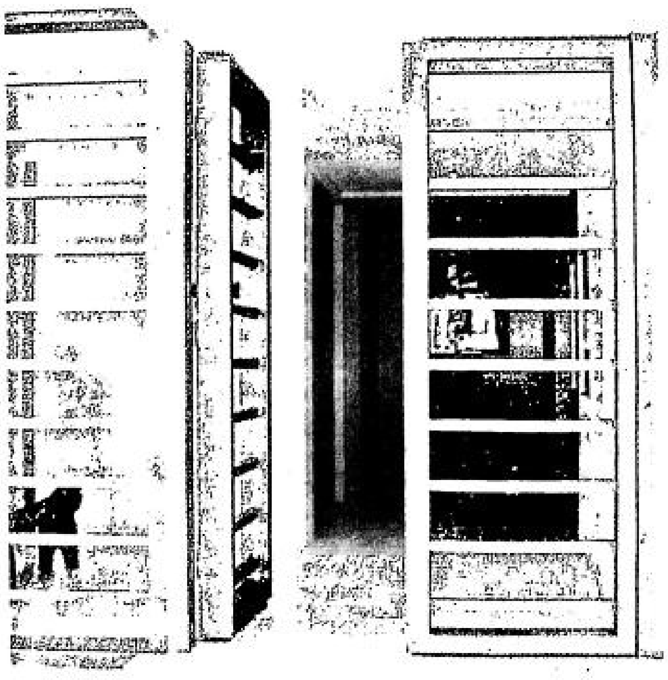
A LAMP from San Francisco glistens in chrome, bestowing radiance on the couch set upholstered in neutral colors of camel, beige and white. Beyond, the dining room is resplendent with period pieces showcased in a clean, spare setting.



THE DINING room in focus holds a buffet table gifted the doctor by a patient, and a set of period furniture now basking in the geometry of lines characteristically Ed Calma's. A plane of imported *almaciga* defines the ceiling; a trio of niches holds prized pieces of ceramics.



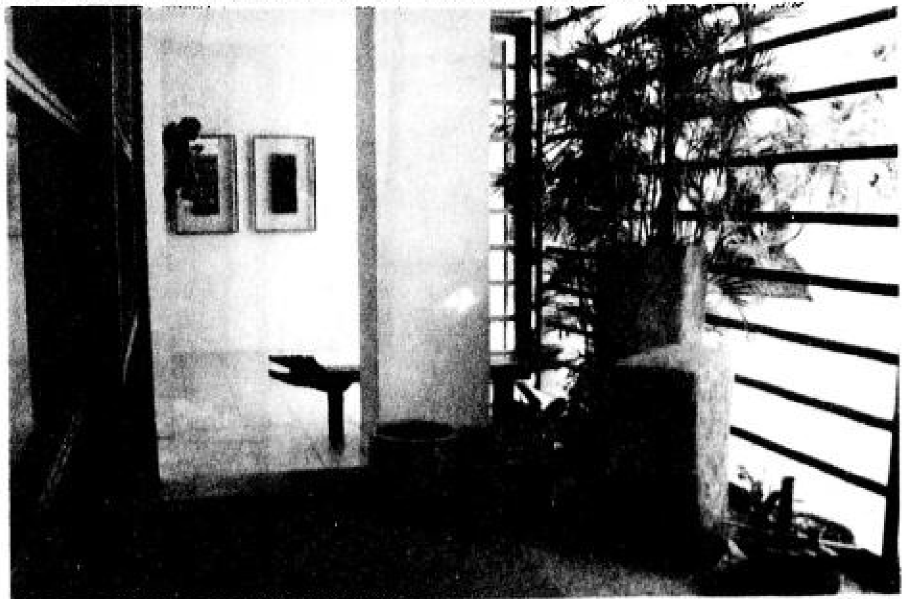
A SINGLE span of cantilevered canopy juts out into the driveway, creating points of interest amid horizontal lines and unpredictable volumes.



IN GUNMETAL finish, these steel frames seal off not just for security but decidedly for design.

DESIGN is progressive, coherent and grand in this juxtaposition of forms and shapes, accented here with lamps that Calma designed as "torches," forging with metal, bulb and marble a symmetry that contributes to a fast-forward design.

MAJESTIC collections are uniquely showcased in portals of glass between veneered walls, highlighting the possibility of tradition merging with modern lines. The engagement of spare architectural interiors with a wealth of décor is a masterful stroke that does not compromise consistency of character. Proportionate volumes and expanses of fresh air enliven the ceiling and walls, as six meters of vertical space burst with illumination.



FROM THE INTERIORS and into the garden, the unspoken collaboration between the architect and the landscape artist is expressed even in this corner of plants that Tim and Maggie Jimenez arranged. Such softness and warmth break the angles and inspire the couple toward a cozy lifestyle.

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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

Nobody can disco no more

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

TO THIS very day I still have not figured out exactly what the lyrics of Taste of Honey's "Boogie Oogie Oogie" really mean. Not that it really matters. Considering that I do not comprehend Donna Summers' "Love to Love You Baby" or Alicia Bridges' "I Love the Night Life," I guess there are certain things about life that you simply have to accept—and cherish—even if the bottom line is that they do not really mean anything.

NOBODY/ p.F3

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Tel. Nos. 893-7537, 810-7196

February 2, Saturday, 9-12 nn THAI COOKING 1 Tom Kha Gai, Tom Yum Goong, Phad Thai Noodles, Steamed Lapu Lapu, Thai Barbecue (Chicken, Pork and Squid), Spicy Squid Salad, Flaming Seafood Curry P 1,200

February 2, Saturday, 1:30-4:30 pm PASTAS AND MORE! Homemade Pasta, Basic Tomato Sauce, Linguini Carbonara, Spaghetti Putanesca, Lasagne, Seafood Pasta, Penne a la Vocka P 1,000

February 4, Monday, 9am-1 pm BASIC BAKING 1 from measuring to presentation! Chiffon Cake, Coffee Crunch Cake, Sponge Cake: Strawberry and White Chocolate Trifle, Rich Butter Cake, Pie Crust: American Apple Pie P 1,200

February 6, Wednesday, 2-5 pm VALENTINE SPECIAL MENU with Chef Mauro Arjona Roasted Duck Salad in Raspberry-Honey Sauce with Papadom, Tomato and Prawn Bisque with Cheese Stick, Poached Salmon Medallion in Saffron-Champagne Sauce, Fillet of Beef Tenderloin in Mushroom Puree and Port wine Sauce, Fresh Marinated Strawberry P 1,500

February 7, Thursday, 9-12 am BASIC CONTAINER GARDENING Start a new, healthy lifestyle! Learn how to grow your own green vegetables and herbs in various containers around the house. Ideal for limited spaces. Plus tips on composting! P 700

February 8, Friday, 9 am-1 pm BAKING 2 with Frostings & Icings Rich and Moist Devil's Food Cake with Mocha Buttercream Frosting, Apple Walnut Cake with Creamy Caramel Frosting, Chocolate Decadent Cake with Chocolate Fudge Icing and Caramel, Maple Walnut Cake with Fluffy White Frosting P 1,200

February 9, Saturday, 9-12 am THAI COOKING 2 Glass Noodle Salad, Bagoong Rice, Catfish Salad, Spicy Kangkong, Shrimp Pancake, Century Egg Salad, Mango with Sticky Rice P 1,200

February 9, Saturday, 2-5 pm Special Recipes by Lydia Castillo, Food Columnist and Cookbook Author Nouveaux Jumbo Shrimps in Cream and Herbs, Pollo Ibena, Rocket Salad with Bread Dressing, Kiwam-Laguna Style, Malamis na Saging a la Mode P 1,200

February 11, Monday, 9am-1 pm BAKING 3 Toblerone Cake, Cream Puff, Eclairs, Profiteroles, Chocolate Mousse, Creamy Croissant and Apple Pudding, Empanadas con Camotey Pina P 1,000

February 12, Tuesday, 9-1 pm PIES AND CHEESECAKES Apple Pie with Streusel, Blueberry Cheesecake, No Bake Cheesecake, Quiche Lorraine, Oreo Cheesecake P 1,200

February 12, Tuesday, 2 - 5 pm SPECIAL COOKING 1 Pasta with Gorgonzola Sauce, Paella Valenciana, Fish Florentine in Filo Pastry, Bone Marrow Canapes, Crepes Samurai P 1,000

February 13, Wednesday, 9-12nn MY FAVOURITE CHICKEN RECIPES 1 Roast Chicken with Gravy and Herb Potatoes, Chicken Curry with Condiments, Coq Au Vin, Chicken a la Kiev, Chicken Croquettes P 1,000

February 15, Friday, 9 – 1 pm BAKING 4 Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting, Lemon Meringue Pie, Rum Pound Cake, Tiramisu, Baklava P1,000

February 16, Saturday, 9-12nn THAI COOKING 3 Pandan Chicken, Thai Chicken Curry, Beef Curry, Khanom Chine, Papaya Salad, Green Mango Salad, Pineapple Rice, Poh Piah (Thai Springrolls) P 1,200

February 16, Saturday, 1-6 pm YEAST DOUGHS Pan de Sal, Ensaimada Especial (with Cheese and Ube filling), Cheese Rolls, Pear Walnut Bread P 1,200

February 18, Monday, 9-12 nn BROWNIES GALORE Chocolate Cheesecake Brownies, Cappuccino Brownies, Kahlua Brownies, White Chocolate Pecan Brownies, Chocolate Fudge Brownies P 1,000

February 19, Tuesday, 9-1 pm BAKING 5 Ube Cake, Original Pandan Cake, Mango Cake, Strawberry Shortcake P 1,000

February 20, Wednesday 2 – 5 pm ASIAN FUSION with Chef Mauro Arjona Green Apple and Mango Salad with Dried Calamares and Shrimp, Pasta "Mau Way," Grilled Chicken Escalope in Oriental Sauce with Sauteed Potatoes and Shallots, Baked Tuna Loin in Filo Pastry with Wasabi-Soya Vinaigrette Chocolate Crepe Samurai P 1,500

February 21, Thursday, 9 – 12 nn MY FAVOURITE CHICKEN RECIPES 2 Chicken Florentine, Barbecued Chicken Wings, Grilled Chicken and Shrimp on Skewers, Arroz con Pollo, Chicken Teriyaki, Chicken and Steak Fajitas P 1,000

February 22, Friday, 9-1 pm SPECIAL BAKING Death by Chocolate Mango Tango, Mango Layer Cake, Caramel Cheesecake with Nut Crust P 1,200

February 23, Saturday, 9-12 nn THAI COOKING 4 Braised Crabs in Curry Sauce, Steamed Fish with Herb Soup, Savory Stir-Fried Lapu-lapu Fillet, Chicken with Sesame Seeds, Sizzling Beef, Fish Cakes P 1,200

February 23, Saturday, 1-5 pm BAKING 5 Ube Cake, Original Pandan Cake, Mango Cake, Strawberry Shortcake P 1,000

February 25, Monday, 9-12 nn ASIAN COOKING Hainanese Chicken Rice, Vietnamese Springrolls, Gado Gado, Claypot Chicken Rice, Peking Candied Apples P 1,000

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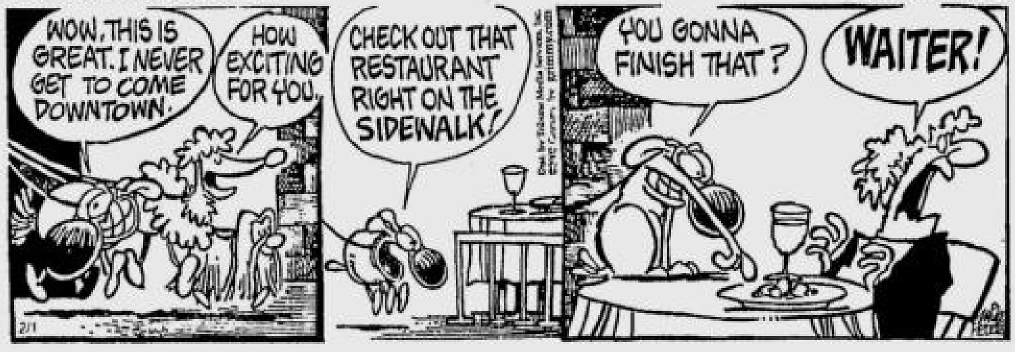
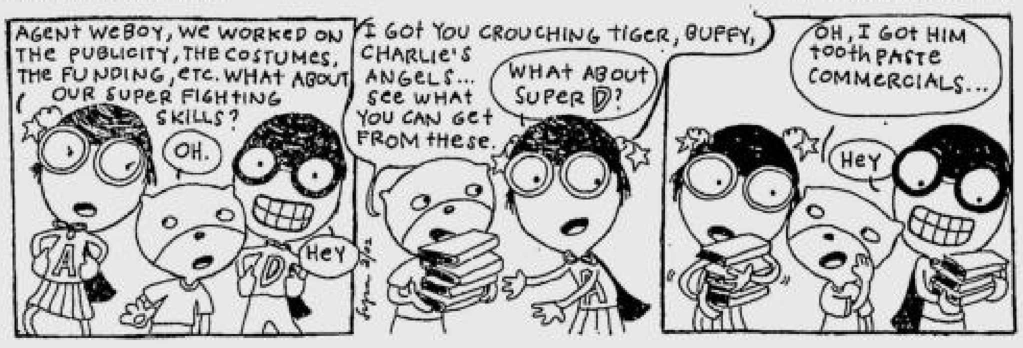
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WOW, THIS IS GREAT. I NEVER GET TO COME DOWNTOWN.
HOW EXCITING FOR YOU.
CHECK OUT THAT RESTAURANT RIGHT ON THE SIDEWALK!
YOU GONNA FINISH THAT?
WAITER!
2/1

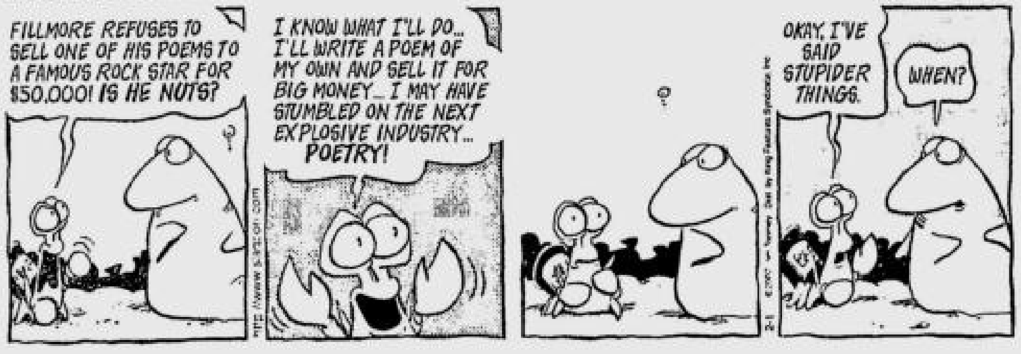
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AGENT WEBOY, WE WORKED ON THE PUBLICITY, THE COSTUMES, THE FUNDING, ETC. WHAT ABOUT OUR SUPER FIGHTING SKILLS?
OH.
HEY
I GOT YOU CROUCHING TIGER, BUFFY, CHARLIE'S ANGELS... SEE WHAT YOU CAN GET FROM THESE.
WHAT ABOUT SUPER D?
OH, I GOT HIM TOOTHPASTE COMMERCIALS...
HEY

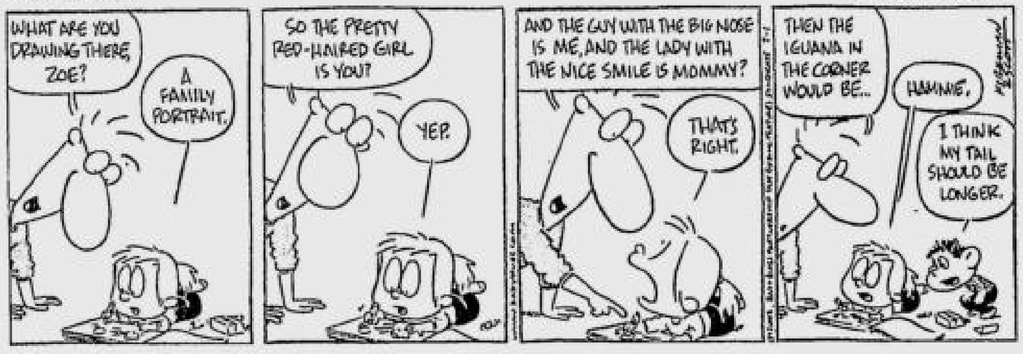
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


FILLMORE REFUSES TO SELL ONE OF HIS POEMS TO A FAMOUS ROCK STAR FOR $50,000! IS HE NUTS?
I KNOW WHAT I'LL DO... I'LL WRITE A POEM OF MY OWN AND SELL IT FOR BIG MONEY... I MAY HAVE STUMBLED ON THE NEXT EXPLOSIVE INDUSTRY... POETRY!
OKAY, I'VE SAID STUPIDER THINGS.
WHEN?

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING THERE, ZOE?
A FAMILY PORTRAIT.
SO THE PRETTY RED-HAIRED GIRL IS YOU?
YEP.
AND THE GUY WITH THE BIG NOSE IS ME, AND THE LADY WITH THE NICE SMILE IS MOMMY?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEN THE IGUANA IN THE CORNER WOULD BE...
HAMMIE.
I THINK MY TAIL SHOULD BE LONGER.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lisa Marie Presley, Jessica Savitch, Princess Stephanie, Terry Jones

Happy Birthday: You'll be interested in financial security and the comfort that it can buy you this year. Be energetic in your professional pursuits as well as a positive and progressive worker and you will get the results you're looking for. Your numbers are 3, 8, 14, 24, 33, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Avoid being frivolous. Guard against undue extravagance. Someone you care about may take advantage of your financial situation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be confident and do things your way. Your cautious and practical approach will bring praise from those you work for. You have a good handle on future prospects.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll become bored if you aren't already considering a change. You can pursue new avenues of learning that will lead you down interesting new avenues.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It is best to lay low and focus on setting your house in order. Some family members may be less than pleased with your decisions but do what is needed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Communicating with friends should bring about some interesting developments. Do a little extra research so that you feel confident about your choices.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put your heart and soul into your career. Don't let anyone lead you in the wrong direction. Focus on yourself and your personal needs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look out for your own interests and don't let anyone push you into something that you don't believe in. Put yourself in a setting that will calm you down and soothe your nerves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Some things may not be too clear today. Don't act in haste or settle for something that you know is incomplete. Be upfront and honest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This is the time to make decisions regarding partners. If you aren't quite sure what you want to do, ask a trusted friend for his or her point of view. It's time to get off the fence and make a decision .

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are trying too hard. Step back and let things settle down. Once you catch your breath you will have a much better understanding of what's expected of you.

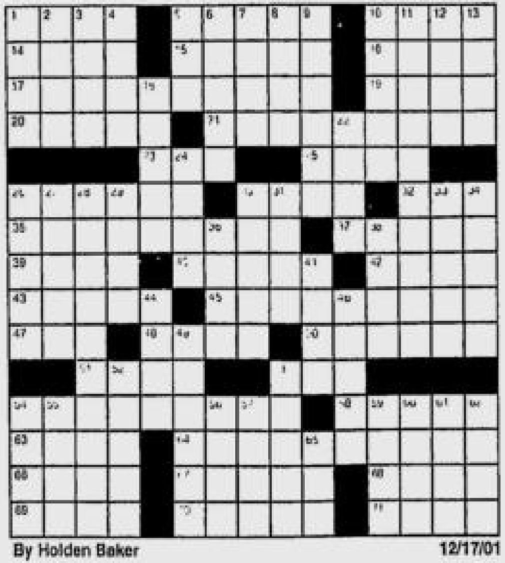
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make headway today if you put your mind to it. Once the work is done, treat yourself to something special. You will have intuitive insight today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a look at investment opportunities today. You'll be surprised how well you can do financially.

Birthday Baby: You love to debate social and philosophical issues. You also love to read and have the potential to be a great scholar. You are fond of travel and this will lead you to many parts of the world.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA

12/17/01

ACROSS
1 Teapot __ scandal
5 Messy people
10 Jason's ship
14 March middle
15 Casals or Picasso
16 Flutie or Henning
17 Kids' TV show of the '50s
19 Throw
20 Reykjavik cash
21 Set of ten rules
23 Draft org.
25 Poland's Walesa
26 Geological layers
30 Murder
32 Stephen or Chris
35 Bride's clothes
37 Seed covers
39 Lock maker
40 Grating
42 Mine entrance
43 With 53A, maker of Prozac
45 Intimate chat
47 UFO personnel
48 CCCP, to us
50 Parent, e.g.
51 Autumn tool
53 See 43A
54 Suffering from strabismus
58 Japanese city
63 Sets down
64 Coyote's prey
66 Fairy-tale beginning
67 See 20A
68 Single thing
69 Losing proposition?
70 Medicinal quantities
71 Writes

DOWN
1 Bogarde of "Victim"
2 Aroma
3 Office note
4 Cable stn.
5 Apr. season
6 Covers with fat
7 Clarinet's cousin
8 Coalition
9 Mogadishu resident
10 Committee type
11 One of Teddy Roosevelt's troops
12 Indian sage
13 Stare at
18 Some bridge players
22 Singer Horne
24 Window part
26 Vogue
27 Attribute
28 British luxury car
29 "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author
30 Challenger
31 Eject
33 Privileged few
34 Fall bloomer
36 Diner food
38 Pro __ (in proportion)
41 Hand-tied fly
44 A few laughs
46 Vowels
49 Get angry
52 Something of value
53 Van Halen or Murphy
54 Hunk of dirt
55 Hindu princess
56 Cellist Ma
57 Jug handles
59 Clipped-off piece
60 Feed the kitty
61 Sharp
62 Weapons
65 B&O and others

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	C	A	R	L	A	T	T	I	■	T	R	U	S	S
H	A	R	M	O	N	I	E	S	■	H	E	N	N	A
I	N	E	A	R	N	E	S	T	■	E	L	M	O	S
P	T	A	■	D	I	R	T	S	■	W	E	A	R	S
M	A	C	E	■	E	R	E	■	J	I	T	N	E	Y
A	B	O	R	T	■	A	R	N	A	Z	■	■	■	■
T	I	D	I	E	S	■	S	E	N	■	G	I	R	D
E	L	E	C	T	E	E	■	T	I	T	A	N	I	A
S	E	S	S	■	E	L	S	■	S	A	L	T	O	N
■	■	■	■	S	K	I	E	S	■	S	L	U	G	S
S	N	A	I	L	S	■	A	T	P	■	S	I	R	E
T	A	B	O	O	■	A	L	O	H	A	■	T	A	U
U	S	I	N	G	■	M	A	I	N	T	A	I	N	S
N	A	D	I	A	■	I	N	C	O	M	M	O	D	E
G	L	E	A	N	■	D	E	S	M	O	I	N	E	S

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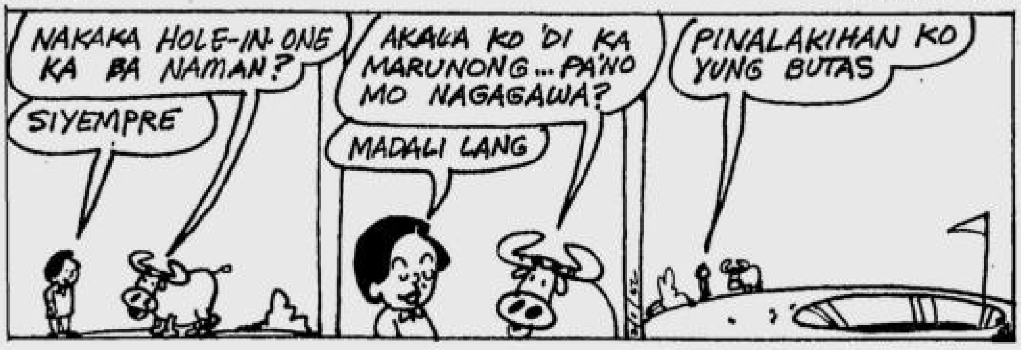
12/17/01

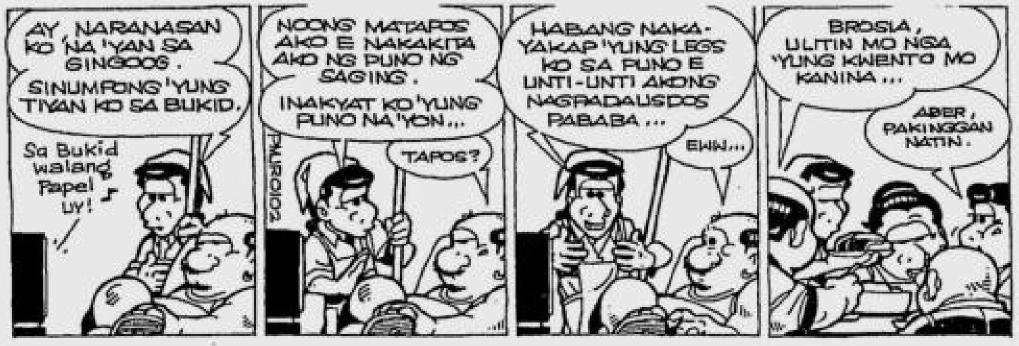
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAKAKA HOLE-IN-ONE KA BA NAMAN?
SIYEMPRE
AKALA KO 'DI KA MARUNONG... PA'NO MO NAGAGAWA?
MADALI LANG
PINALAKIHAN KO YUNG BUTAS

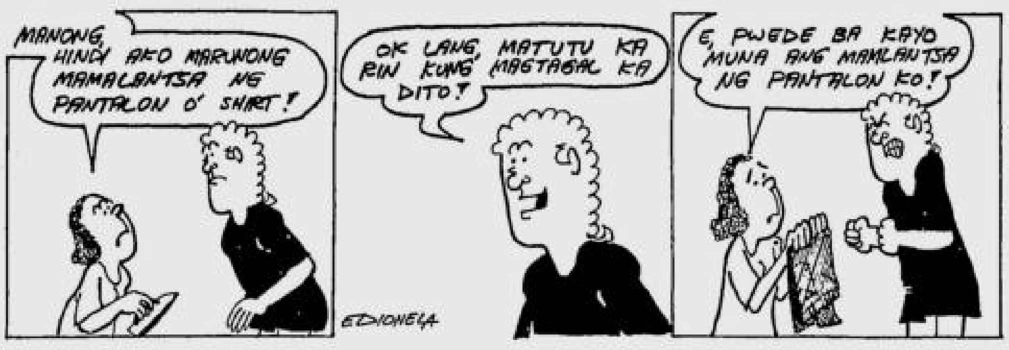
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AY, NARANASAN KO NA 'YAN SA GINGOOG.
SINUMPONG 'YUNG TIYAN KO SA BUKID.
Sa Bukid walang Papel uy!
NOONG MATAPOS AKO E NAKAKITA AKO NG PUNO NG SAGING.
INAKYAT KO 'YUNG PUNO NA 'YON...
TAPOS?
HABANG NAKA-YAKAP 'YUNG LEGS KO SA PUNO E UNTI-UNTI AKONG NAGPADAUSDOS PABABA...
EWW...
BROSIA, ULITIN MO NGA 'YUNG KWENTO MO KANINA...
ABER, PAKINGGAN NATIN.

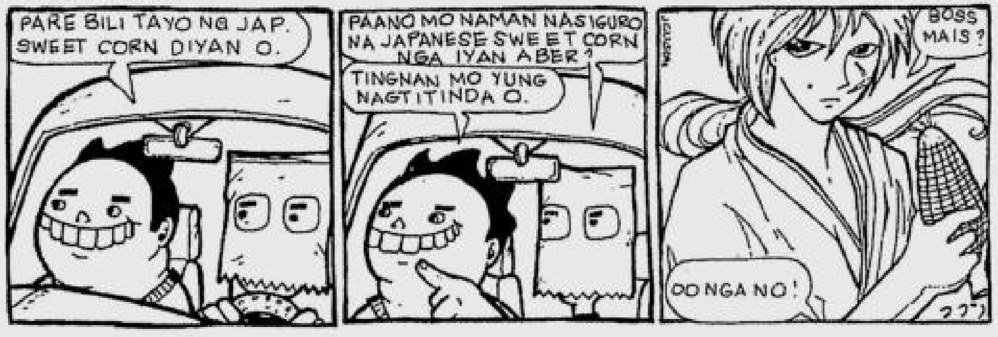
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MANONG, HINDI AKO MARUNONG MAMALANTSA NG PANTALON O' SHIRT!
OK LANG, MATUTU KA RIN KUNG MAGTAGAL KA DITO!
E, PWEDE BA KAYO MUNA ANG MAMALANTSA NG PANTALON KO!
EDIONELA

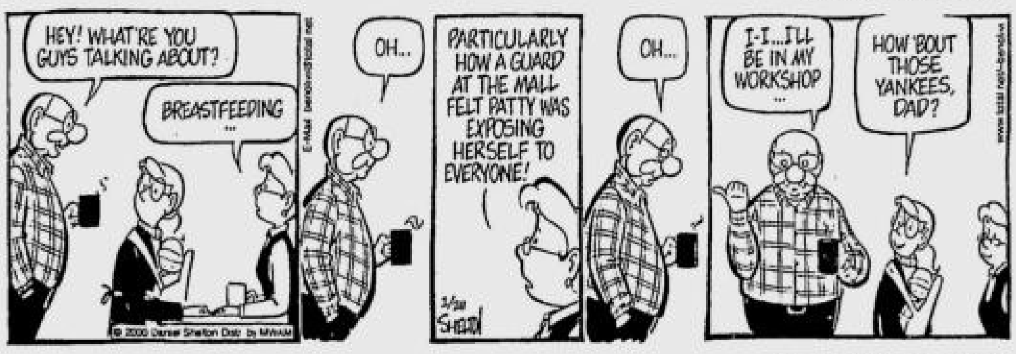
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


PARE BILI TAYO NG JAP. SWEET CORN DIYAN O.
PAANO MO NAMAN NASIGURO NA JAPANESE SWEET CORN NGA IYAN ABER?
TINGNAN MO YUNG NAGTITINDA O.
BOSS MAIS?
OO NGA NO!

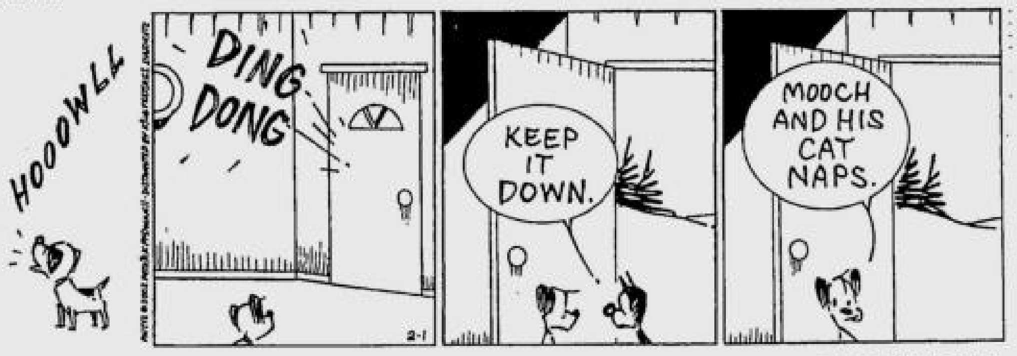
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEY! WHAT'RE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
BREASTFEEDING ...
OH...
PARTICULARLY HOW A GUARD AT THE MALL FELT PATTY WAS EXPOSING HERSELF TO EVERYONE!
OH...
I-I...I'LL BE IN MY WORKSHOP ...
HOW 'BOUT THOSE YANKEES, DAD?

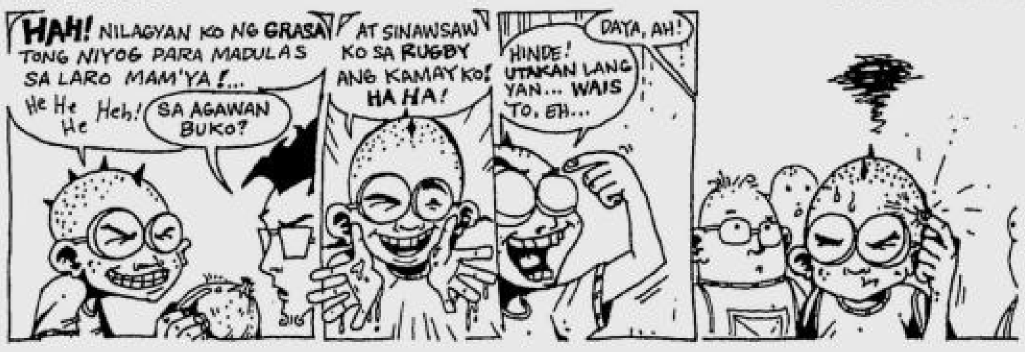
MUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL


HOOOWLL
DING DONG
KEEP IT DOWN.
MOOCH AND HIS CAT NAPS.
2-1

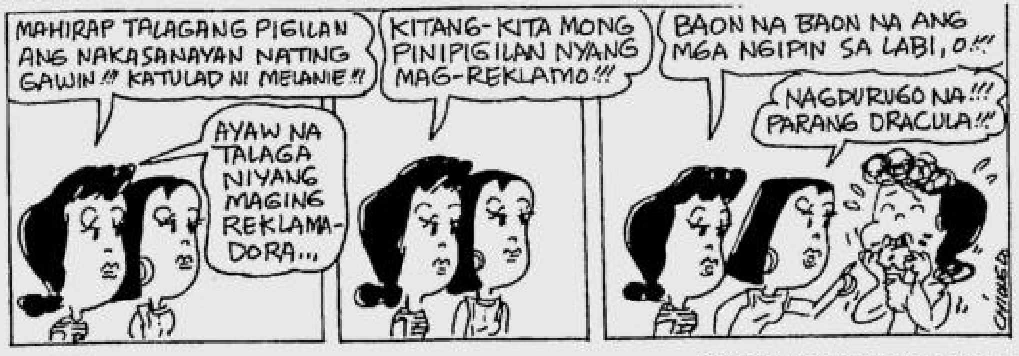
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAH! NILAGYAN KO NG GRASA TONG NIYOG PARA MADULAS SA LARO MAM'YA!...
He He He Heh!
SA AGAWAN BUKO?
AT SINAWSAW KO SA RUGBY ANG KAMAY KO! HA HA!
DAYA, AH!
HINDE! UTAKAN LANG YAN... WAIS TO, EH...

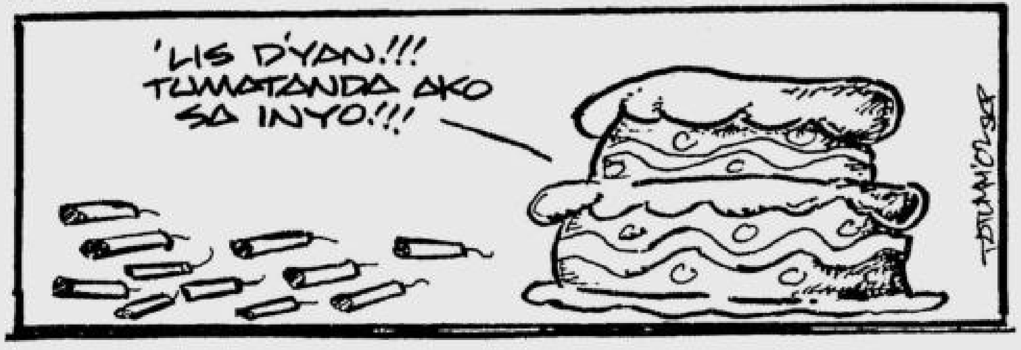
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAHIRAP TALAGANG PIGILAN ANG NAKASANAYAN NATING GAWIN!!! KATULAD NI MELANIE!!!
AYAW NA TALAGA NIYANG MAGING REKLAMADORA...
KITANG-KITA MONG PINIPIGILAN NYANG MAG-REKLAMO!!!
BAON NA BAON NA ANG MGA NGIPIN SA LABI, O!!!
NAGDURUGO NA!!! PARANG DRACULA!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


'LIS D'YAN!!! TUMATANDA AKO SA INYO!!!

Nobody can disco no more

I find it somewhat ridiculous when kids think that their parents 'do not know the meaning of fun.' HA!

From page F1

But I cannot call these songs senseless or irrelevant. Occasionally hearing them played on the radio because of some DJ's warped concept of nostalgia, my feet move without and beyond my control. I still know the dance steps although I am not quite sure if I still possess the stamina to *oogie-woogie-boogie* on the dance floor nonstop for six straight songs, complete with attitude, conviction and gesticulations. I am not even positive that I can still find the adrenaline rush to wiggle my way into a fully packed dance floor shouting "I will survive!"

Yet, ah, the disco days of the mid- to late-'70s pouring into the early '80s were something else. If hippie-dom characterized the high school years, the magic and frenzy of disco defined college and the few years after. I was a college freshman when Martial Law was declared in 1972: I distinctly remember the very first thing that marked change in our perception of life. That was when orders came that every student of the then all-boys college called De la Salle had to have their locks sheared so not a single strand touched the collar. There was panic since most of us sported our *pelos* shoulder-length, excepting the geek whose ultimate ambition was to be the president of the Library Club.

Different nightlife

The new set of rules that accompanied Martial Law also introduced an entirely different attack on one's nightlife. I (like so many in my generation) remember the so many years when a midnight-4 a.m. curfew was imposed all over this country. Anyone caught in the streets would be dragged to Camp Crame and made to cut the grass or something like that. In the hearts and minds of kids, that was reason enough to stick by the rules. Although there was still a lot of "grass" going around, you didn't want to wake up inside a boot camp as a human lawnmower.

However, you could not convince hormone-crazy, fun-addicted college kids to focus on the uncertainty of the political climate alone. Or was it a defense mechanism of sort to either be oblivious about what was happening or focus on the abandonment licensed by youth? It did not take long for after dark entertainment to pick up again and reinvent itself into a mutant form of disco fever. Together with buzzwords of the time such as "salvaging" came "stay-in": a stay-in party meant that you did not take the risk of rushing out of a host's residence at 11:50 p.m. to get to your own abode before the clock struck 12.

And disco clubs sprouted in hotels where the throngs gathered to be completely absorbed by the play of lights and very, very loud music. At the Hyatt, there was Circuit. Where Else? (marked by an enormous neon question mark glowing right through Edsa) was a cave at the Hotel Inter-Continental. There was Delirium in Makati, Velvet Slum on F.B. Harrison Street in Pasay City and, of course, Coco Banana near the Remedios Circle.

Those were the days when you had to be geared up to go out. To this very day, I am still trying to figure out how much of the ozone layer was damaged by the girls of that time as they tortured their hair into marble-like rigidity to form those flips. These young ladies would risk pneumonia, sporting nothing more than bra tops with loose palazzo pants and then aptly protected by blazers that fall off their shoulders when the music gets really wild. And those were the days when dressing up meant being dead serious about the way you looked each weekend. People were catalogued according to the territories where they reigned as princes and princesses, plowing through the night with a feverish desire to have fun, fun, fun.

Style pretenders

And so we all tried to be *artistas*. We had our Nic-Nic shirts of the most uncomfortable and synthetic form of jersey ever conceived by science. We had braided waits on our denims in a brand called Bang-Bang...until the *sastres* and *costureras* learned how to make perfect imitations to pull down the fashion statement into ultimate *kabakyaan*. We wore our Fioruccis or Hong Kong imitations of such; we even wore Dutch clogs to match our carpenter's pants to school. We smoked Pall Malls and Marlboros. We smelled like Brut, Jovan Musk Oil, Yatagan, Givenchy and Grey Flannel each time we crossed the hotel lobbies and pretended to have grand entrances in the temples of ultimate abandonment.

For those who had the chance to actually experience the real Studio 54 in New York, the attempt to bring that level of insanity went far and beyond the seeming omnipotence of the Bee Gees and their music. Oh, my God, one of John Travolta's biggest sins to the world is how he gave affirmation to polyester. When "Saturday Night Fever" is played on cable—showing Mr. Travolta with that cocksure walk at the opening credits of the film (*"Staying alive . . . staying aliiiiiive!")* or when he does his famous *paturo-turo* dance step on the disco floor—I get goose bumps. I do not only remember all those Saturday nights when I almost broke my arm or damaged a girl's neck desperately trying to execute my graceful version of the Swing to the tune of "More Than a Woman." I must have looked nothing short of pathetic.

And, of course, there was this whole thing about "perma-pressed" pants: they were highly flammable and had a life of their own. One wrong flick of your Pall Malls and there would be a gaping hole right through your embossed polyester flare pants with a smell that approximated burning rubber. Worse, when you got out of the pair and threw them anywhere within the territory of your room, they would land on an upright position much like the Batsuit that Bruce Wayne kept in his most secret of caves.

Coco Banana

All memories of disco seem to catapult to Coco Banana. Kids who used to haunt the streets of Nakpil and Orosa, or even the revelers who still drag their feet around Remedios Circle, do not know the significance of Ernest Santiago in transforming Manila's nightlife. Oh, yes! Remedios

NOBODY/ p.F4

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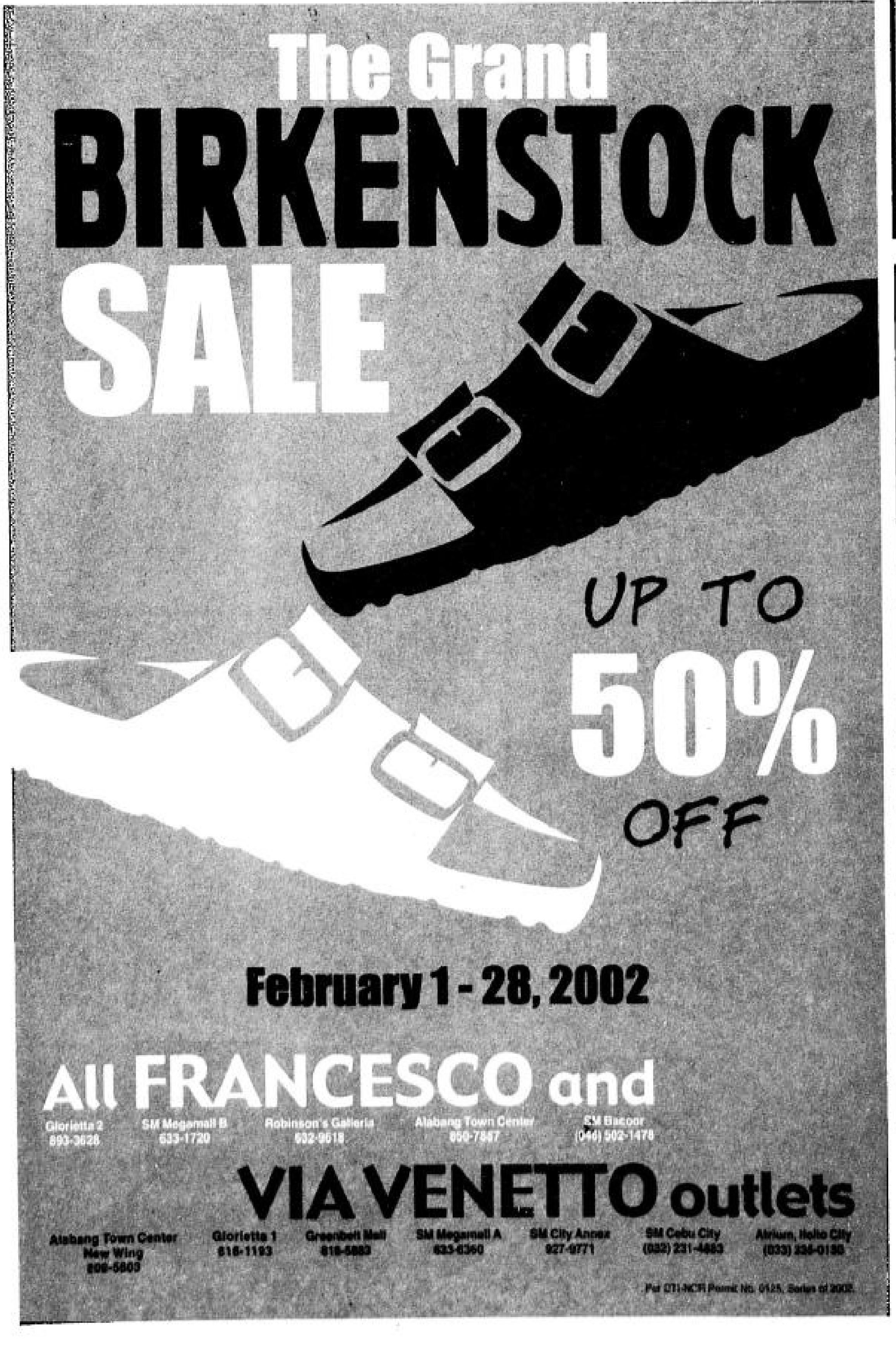

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Nobody can disco no more

From page F3

Circle used to be an unkempt, forgotten dinky plaza that smelled of the stale air of Manila. Ernest changed all that by creating what came closest to Studio 54 in trying to legitimize the bohemian, drugged-out, booze-crazy decadence of the city's select society. Coco Banana started out as a simple club with enamel-painted carousel horses, brass banana trees and dried cucumbers hanging from ceilings as decor. It eventually evolved into the in spot where everyone came in as part of the crowd or to simply gape at who was in the crowd.

In those younger days, it was not only an honor but an ultimate measure of your so-called social worth to be able get into Coco without paying the entrance fee and achieving the clout of face value. Ernest also exercised the right to accept or reject people entering his club minus a real velvet rope. And it was in this amusing practice that Chito Vijandre held the record for dishing out the most memorable dissing line of that decade. Not exactly sober but not completely unconscious one night, Chito examined a human specimen with matching date at the entrance of the club then expelled a somewhat slurred, "Go away! It's not your year." And they did.

Disco reached its height with Ernest hosting the most outrageous parties at Coco: there was a Hollywood Night where Manila's denizens came as characters from the "Wizard of Oz," "Gone with the Wind" and even as Dona Sisang of LVN. Well, yes, somebody had to come as Mars Ravelo's "Dyesebel" (complete with immobile feet caught inside a sequined tail) with matching *siyokoys* carrying this pseudo-aquatic maiden around the crowded perimeter. It was too bad that the *siyokoys* got tired or sidetracked by other forms of fishermen cruising the maddening shores that the Fish Lady had to crawl on the floor lest she be trampled by the partygoers going mad to the tune of Diana Ross' "The Boss."

Fantasy

During his Fantasy Night party that spilled straight into the circle, complete with *ati-atihan* re-creations, people came as maharajahs, maharanis, elephants, intergalactic creatures and even token human beings. The insanity of Saturday night became a social order, the need to party creating a bond on a highly heterogeneous community. Movie actors, fashion designers, businessmen, social wannabes and got-to-bes and including some faded/fading heavenly bodies cavorted with one another, shared drinks and celebrated wanton behavior with all the allowable innocence of the pre-AIDS days.

So that is why I find it somewhat ridiculous when kids think that their parents "do not know the meaning of fun." HA! The youngsters of nowadays think that their sense of daring in the parking lots of the clubs at Libis or in the little nooks and crannies of Maria Orosa Street are such penultimate measures of decadence. Maybe it is about time that they give polygraph tests to their parents while interrogating them about what *they* did when they were their age. The youth will be absolutely stunned.

Of course I remember disco. I still play Men Without Hats, the soundtrack of "Thank God It's Friday" and can still do a vicious rendition of the Village People's "Y.M.C.A." with my arms flapping. In the privacy of my bedroom late at night, I still dance to the tune of "Keep on Dancing," Chic's "Le Freak" and the Emotions' "Best of My Love." When I pass by Remedios Circle, or when I see what has happened to what was once Where Else?, I cannot help but reminisce of the days when some of my friends fell down the stairs or woke up at 8 a.m. the next day at Coco Banana because of their uncontrolled consumption of substances that made them happy. And in the back of my mind, I am still precise with my dance steps.

I do not know at what exact date disco died. My closet is now empty of polyesters and even if they still "I Will Survive" in numerous reincarnations, nothing beats the original. It does not even disturb me to admit that with all my attempts at literary expertise, I still cannot figure out the meaning of "Boogie Oogie Oogie."

It doesn't matter. "Ooops, I Did it Again" does not make sense to me either.

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